Copies

Dr. Wilson has had the pleasure of receiving Miss DaCosta's note, communicating a resolution of the Female Missionary Association of Christ Church to pay over to the Domestic & Foreign Society of the Protestant Episcopal Ch. in the U. S. Fifty dollars to constitute him a patron, & that the resolution has been carried into effect. He begs Miss DaCosta will do him the favour of offering to the Ladies of the Association his acknowledgements for the unexpected & very gratifying compliment.

Phila 18th Aug. 1825.

Miss Ann T. DaCosta. Secretary of the Female Missionary Association of Christ Church

Copies of letters
from
Revd. F. F. Peake Missionary at Boonville, Missouri,
to
the Secretary of the Female Missionary Association
of Christ Church, Philadelphia.

Boonville (Mo.) 29 Decemr. 1836

Miss Ann T. Da Costa Secy
of Female Missionary Association

Dear Madam

When in your City last fall on my way to this place, Bishop Kemper placed in my hands a letter received from your association, wherein you had expressed a desire to aid in the support of a Missionary in some part of his Diocese, at the same time informing me that it was his wish that I should become your missionary if agreeable to your society. It would have given me pleasure at that time if I could have had the ~~pleasure~~ opportunity of a personal interview - but failing in that, the Bishop advised me to write and inform you of my determination. Should it be in accordance with your wishes, I should be

happy to consider myself as your Missionary.
and altho' the funds which you raise for that
purpose are received through the medium of the
Domestic Committee at New York still the appro-
priation will be considered in the same light
as tho' tendered to me personally or mediately
through the Bishop —

It might be viewed as a trifling matter to
some, to hold this distant relation to your
association, but to me it seems otherwise.
While I act as the almoner of your bounties I
shall regard it as affording me a sort of claim
on your best wishes for my success, your kind
Christian Sympathies, and may I not add,
your prayers? Placed as I am in the midst of
a vast moral waste with but few opportunities
of communion with kindred minds (200 miles
from any Brother clergyman) and consequently
exposed to many trials and difficulties calcu-
lated to weigh down one's Spirits, the thought
that there are those, even though far away,
who feel an interest in the success of my labors
and who sometimes ask the blessing of Heaven
upon them, this thought alone, I say, would
do much to dispel the gloom which occasionally
settles upon my mind, and adds to the real
causes of despondency which surround me, many

which are only imaginary - Do not infer from these remarks, Madam, that I regret the step I have taken. On the contrary I believe I am in the path of duty, - if so, I am satisfied, contented, nay thankful.

Should you see fit to accede to my wishes and adopt this as the station towards which your attention and your efforts will be directed, it would give me pleasure to communicate from time to time, such facts in relation to the progress of the work as may prove interesting to yourself, and your coadjutors in your praiseworthy undertaking - At present, there is little to say of what has been done. On my arrival I found but one solitary individual member of our communion - but he is a warmhearted good man, and a faithful of our blessed master - We have no place of worship, save a very uncomfortable room in a school house, or the Court House which in cold weather is still more so. The Services of the Church had never been heard except once when the Bishop visited here last fall a year ago.

But the people received us kindly, and as they become more acquainted with the Church I trust they will love it more. Even now several piously disposed people

have expressed themselves in favor of our form of worship, and eventually, I think will become members of our communion.

As they had no Sunday School in the place, and as I considered it too important a branch of my duty to be overlooked, efforts were made for establishing one forthwith, which I am thankful to say have succeeded. Judicious measures on my part, with the divine blessing, may render this little school an efficient instrument in furthering our plans and ultimately of conferring benefits on the community at large.

With Sincere regard

I am Your Obedt Servt

(Signed) F. F. Peake

Missionary at Boonville

P.S. Will you have the kindness to let me know what steps your Society has taken in regard to this matter? and also whether my proposition to write occasionally would be agreeable. at the same time let me assure you that any communications from the Association at any time will be considered as a favor.

Again Yours &c (S) F. F. P.

Boonville (Mo) 15th March 1837

Miss Ann T. Da Costa, Secy &c

Dear Madam

I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your very kind and truly Christian letter, for which I beg you will accept, for yourself and in behalf of the Society with which you are connected my most sincere thanks.

Such an expression of interest in the success of my labors here, coming from the source it did, could not but be gratifying. Yet the gratification did not, I trust arise solely from the thought that distant and unknown friends were sympathizing with me in the necessary privations of a missionary life; however agreeable to the feelings of human nature, that thought itself might have been.

In the assurance which you gave me that for God's blessing upon my exertions I have "the constant prayers of every member of the association" there was something which told of a higher and holier feeling than mere personal regard. – "Ask and ye shall receive" – God has promised to bless our efforts only as they spring from faith. That faith, whatever may be its outward manifestations, will lead to prayer – and without prayer, all

other means which we may use of doing God's will, must be worthless. Your money might procure sustenance for the body, but it will not, can not convert Souls - Your sincere prayers will do both - Is this enthusiasm? "Hath not God said it"? Give your prayers then, dear Madam and the work will be done.

One word further. You now may perceive the reason why I wished to become "your missionary." It was not because your generous contributions would affect directly my temporal affairs; - but because it engaged and concentrated your prayers on a particular and specific object. Others I am aware will differ with me on this point, and say that your prayers for the universal extension of Christ's Kingdom, without reference to any particular spot, would avail as much in the issue and perhaps would be equally beneficial, even to myself. But against this opinion I would appeal to experience and ask every one who has watched the operation of the mind under these circumstances; if our prayers are not more fervent when directed to a specific object, than when no particular object is in view. To take the case before us. Are not your own petitions when praying

for the spread of Christ's religion here, when directed towards an object which occupies much of your attention and lays near to your heart, are not your petitions at such times I say more fervent (and we may add sincere) than when you pray for the success of the Gospel in China or Africa? After all I may be in error - if so, however I have this to console me, it is an error of a harmless character.

- But I forget - You asked me to give your Society some account of what has been done - and to say what are the prospects for the future - With regard to the first, I am constrained to tell you that, so far as man can see, truly it is but little. I will remind you again of the circumstances under which I commenced, not by way of extenuating my own remissness which I freely acknowledge, but in order that you may not be discouraged.

We have had no place of worship during the winter, but an ordinary sized School room - and that only for one half the time. The congregations have uniformly been as large (in the morning) as the room would permit; in the afternoon, less - because heretofore, they have always held their evening service after dark.

This arrangement, so common among all other denominations, I objected to, on my own part, for various reasons, and now they are beginning to see the propriety of giving that part of the day to the service of God, which before was spent in idleness, if not in amusement. You may be surprized when I tell you, that as yet, I have not seen or heard any thing like open opposition from other denominations, or from any one. I bless God for it, but how long such an unlooked for state of things may continue, no one can tell. I visit among them as much as my other duties will possibly admit, and thus study to make all, my personal friends. If God will hear my prayers, they will become the friends and followers of my master. My wife also visits, and the Ladies in Town are very respectful and seem to be pleased with the idea of our remaining among them.

As I could not hope to do much by preaching only on Sundays, and that to a Congregation which I could not call my own, I endeavored in addition to this and the "preaching from house to house" to do something by way of private teaching. The request came from them as they had no good schools and

I consented to devote two hours each P.M. to a few, chiefly young ladies - They commenced about the first of Jany, have continued ever since and appear to be pleased. Some three or four gentlemen from the country have requested me to take charge of their children's education this summer, but I was forced to refuse because I had already denied many in Town. The parents of those I teach were so gratified that they never enquired the terms - but I shall charge them nothing, as I wish to show them that I am laboring for a higher object than money. The Committee at N. York have consented that I should do so if I thought proper - and I firmly believe that this is the best course if we would lay the foundations broad and deep - Our Sunday School flourishes though made up of children whose parents belong to every denomination you can name. It is a little singular that the other denomins should give way so - But I think that we have now so secured the affections of both teachers and scholars that another could not be sustained with success. For this too let God's name be praised, who in his mercy has so inclined their hearts. - P.J.

I intended to have said something of my labors at Fayette where I preach every second Sunday - At this time I will only add, that prospects for a church, are more flattering there than here - there were more Episcopalians when I came. We expect some one to take that place soon, when my whole time may be employed here. About your pecuniary matters - The Money you paid to Bishop Kemper he puts into the Treasury at N. York in your name and for this object. So that you have no more to make up for that account. You need not regret that your contributions are so disposed of as not to come directly to me, for altho' it goes into the general fund, and does not affect the amount of my Salary one way or the other, yet it is all the same to me - My main object is secured. Your kind offer about books - My Sunday School is already being supplied from another source - but if you will be so kind as to select some good books for general reading, suitable especially for young ladies you will oblige me much. Unfortunately my Library is deficient in this respect and I feel the want of them. Adieu. God bless you my dear Madam and return the favors you are bestowing upon others in a tenfold

degree upon yourself. My Christian regards to your Society.

(signed) F. F. Peake

P. S. William Stavely (Bookseller) will forward any thing that you may wish to send. Consigned to Mr. Davis Merch.t Pittsburg, C. B. Powell Boonville - Or the Bishop's brother in law C. P. Relf, may be able to do it - May I request the favor of frequent letters from your Society?

Again Yours &c F. F. P.

Fayette, Howard Co. Missouri

Miss Ann T. Da Costa June 26th. 1837

Dear Madam

Your favor of the 20th. Ult. came to hand on the eve of my departure from Boonville to take up my residence in this place.

The interest with which communications from your association are usually read was heightened in this instance by the circumstance of its being the last, in all probability which I shall have the pleasure of receiving from the same source. Providence has called me to labor in another place and in resigning my charge at Boon-ville, there is nothing given up with more regret than the privilege I have hitherto enjoyed, of

being an immediate co-worker with your association, and in one sense the almoner of your bounties - The kindness and the Christian Spirit which your communications have breathed throughout, has been appreciated - it has been the source of more comfort and encouragement to me, than perhaps you or your friends are aware of. And while in the name of my blessed master I tender you my sincere thanks, let the thought of what you have done, and what through God's grace, you may still do, encourage you also, to go on in the good work. You will undoubtedly extend the same kindly assistance to my successor - Let me assure you he will need it, altho' he enters upon his labors under circumstances some what different from those with which I was surrounded, still he has difficulties sufficient to try the faith and the firmness of the stoutest soldier of the cross, and in your supplications for him, may I not hope, that your former Missionary will not be altogether forgotten.

You will probably have heard of my removal before this reaches you - but the reasons which impelled me to take the step I have, and which you have a right to claim, you may not hear. Permit me to state them briefly -

In my former letters, I had mentioned the schools at this place - Both the male and female departments of their academy are in a flourish=ing condition upwards of 60 pupils in each -

The female Academy had hitherto been under the direction of female teachers - At their semi annual examination in May last, I was present by invitation - I had always felt an interest in this school, for this reason - viz: that it is my belief that we must look to the educated mothers of our land, for the prosperity alike of the nation and of the church. It was with pleasure therefore that I attended this examination and took some part in conducting the exercises - The Trustees and many of the parents were present and the school pupils did themselves much credit.

The next week, a committee came to Boonville requesting me to become the Principal of the institution - For various reasons I refused; Did not like to change my residence, the Bishop was absent - my time could be more profitably employed, and another was daily expected on to take that station - The Trustees urged their point, said that I might name my own terms, that I should have no further care or trouble than to direct the studies and superintend

the teachers &c. Consented - Would give two hours per diem - Salary $300 per annum.

By taking this step we have gained two points - first the Missionary Committee whose funds are low it seems, are relieved of one missionary, and ~~ann~~ consequently will be enabled to do more some where else. 2nd By the influence which I may exert over these young ladies, I can promote directly my main object (the cause of our blessed Master) and indirectly subserve the same end by making them acquainted with our manner of worship, doing away prejudices and thus opening the way for future missionary labors in this and the neighboring Counties where they reside.

By cutting myself loose from the Missionary Society I throw myself on the generosity of the people here, and as they induced me to come here I tell them if they don't see me supported I'll starve before their eyes.

You can easily perceive the difference, between my situation among them, coming at their own urgent requests, and that of one sent by a foreign Society. I have the advantage of them and I trust they will not see me want.

Your books came on safe - My gratitude to you, for this and many other things, you

cannot know. I left them in the parish for which they were intended and where they are eagerly sought after; accompanied as I trust they are by the prayer of faith, no doubt their instrumentality will be blessed - Oh how I feel the want of something of the kind among the young ladies of my school. These must and do read but alas, in this region we have little else but the floating nonsense of the day, novels &c. so that I scarcely know which to advise them - whether to read that the tendency of which is so demoralizing, or to read nothing at all. Miss Donaldson's dear little pupils are not forgotten. I wrote a long letter to them early in spring and gave it to a gentleman who was going directly to Philadª; he has been going every week since and the letter is still in Town. I shall now send it by mail. Adieu, dear Madam, though I know you not personally, yet I can pray for you as "the missionary's friend". To your associates in this work of love, I would also be commended - That the choicest of Heaven's blessings may rest upon you all is the prayer of Your Servant in Christ

(signed) F. F. Peake

P.S. May I not ask the privilege of an occasion

-al communication from you? Situated as I am here, such slight things (slight under other circumstances) assume an importance of which those in the midst of friends can form no just idea. Any information that you may require shall be gladly given at any time. Should you write again please favor me with the names of the individual members of the association. —

Fayette (Mo.) 4 Decr. 1837

Miss Ann T. Da Costa Secy &c.
Philada.

Dear Madam

Yours of the 9th Ult. was found on my desk on my return, Saturday evening last, from a long Missionary tour thro' the upper country.

I sincerely thank you for it. To be thus kindly remembered in your labors of love is more than I had a right to expect. It seems indeed like an answer to the prayers which have been offered for your advancement in holiness and it gives me additional encouragement to persevere in the discharge of the duties which lie before me. How grati-fying that we can thus be the means of

mutual edification - Let us go on then in the good work which our master has left us to perform - When we shall cease to be earthly perhaps, it may be permitted us to know that we have been the instruments of good, not only to those for whom we are immediately laboring, but to each other. If what I can say should have the tendency to awaken your zeal in behalf of perishing souls, much more should the interest you have been pleased to express in the result of my efforts, stir me up to still greater exertions. How many helps our Heavenly Father has given us to make us better to fit us for Heaven.

I said that I have just returned from the upper Missouri. Some 300 miles or more, our good Bishop and myself have travelled on horseback during the last 3 weeks, and in that time I have seen much which may be of interest to your Society. Time however will not permit me to say anything on this subject as I start again this evening on another trip with the Bishop towards St. Louis, visiting Boonville, Rochepost, Columbia Jefferson City and Fulton. As I have a little leisure during the vacation of our academy I wish to improve it in this way. True it

is late in the season for travelling on horseback, especially as the roads in this Country are so dreadfully disagreeable - indeed one accustomed to the fine roads of our older States can scarcely imagine the difficulties and dangers of travelling in the west. But of this, some other time.

The Bishop's visit to this place has been productive of much good to the cause. Every body loves the good man - and the presence of the Bishop with Brothers Minard and Babbitt has given us all more confidence. The hearts of our little flock have been truly gladdened. Four were confirmed - two of whom had previously been communicants the other two have become so since. There is reason to believe that some few more will come forward soon.

As to books, your offer was certainly very kind, but I scarcely know what to say to it, as I had just ordered on some 20 or 30 volumes which reached me a few weeks since. I felt the want of them so much that I wrote T. Latimer to send them immediately and charge the account either to the Bishop or myself. Now if your association see fit to assume that amount (some $22. I think) I will consider

these books as your donation and commence a permanent Parish Library of which these books will form the nucleus. It would be gratifying to me to be able to leave to my successor such necessary auxilliaries - If therefore you see fit to make this arrange=ment, please let me know it in your next - Should you ever think of sending more, at some future day, I will give you a cata=logue of what I now have - Those that come are eagerly sought for and I trust are doing much, much indeed to further the progress of holiness and truth. Commending you and those with whom you are associated to the blessing of Almighty God, I remain
Dear Madam

Your Missionary (signed) F. F. Peake

Fayette (Mo.) April 28. 183[illegible]

Miss Ann T. Da Costa

Dear Madam

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 4th Inst. For the very flattering terms in which you were pleased to convey the views and wishes of the Association in

regard to myself, I sincerely thank you. My connection with your devoted little band I have ever deemed one of the most pleasing circumstances of my ministerial life.

It has been the source of much heart felt satisfaction and has called for many devout thanksgivings to the author of all good.

Cut off as I am here, in a great degree, from those hallowed enjoyments which spring from the union of a Pastor with his flock, it can be no wonder, that the kindness which has been shown to myself personally, and the lively interest which your association has manifested in the cause, to which all that I am and hope to be in this world is consecrated, should call forth feelings of deepest gratitude to God, of sincere Christian regard toward yourselves.

May God give me grace to show my gratitude by an increased zeal and diligence in his service. The wish which you expressed with regard to my returning to Boonville seems, in the providence of God about to be complied with.

I think you were informed in a previous communication, of my resignation of the Superintendancy of the Institution in this place, and of the causes which induced me

to take that step - I am now quite convinced that I acted right - it has given me more influence here, and has led to my removal to Boonville - The citizens generally of the latter place seemed very solicitous for my return. They wished me to engage in teaching a female School and insisted so hard upon my doing so, that I have finally consented. I had thought that it would be advisable for me, since I am left alone this summer, not to engage in teaching any longer - On some accounts it is certainly inexpedient for me to teach, but then, for the present year, I have no other means of support, and further the good of the community seems positively to demand it. Perhaps in the end it will be an advantage to the Church for it can do the Church no harm, that her Clergy are known as the warm friends of Education and active laborers in the work of instruction - At any rate I see no other way for me just now, than to labor on, and do the best I can.

How shall I sufficiently thank you for the promptness with which you have entered into my plans for building a church?

Really you can't imagine how much your encouragement has altered the face of our affairs here - indeed, I now speak to them as confidently (and that's a great advantage) as though I could already see the walls of our new edifice rising before my eyes. And our few members, even in Fayette, were almost beside themselves, when they saw what interest was felt for us abroad. So you have done us some good, even tho' you send us no money - I shall do as you requested about writing to those gentlemen; have not heard from N. York yet, but confidently anticipate some encouragement from that quarter. Then I shall try Cincinnatti, Pittsburgh perhaps Baltimore and lastly St. Louis - We must try and make a beginning this summer. Respecting that Bill at Latimer's there seems to be a little misunderstanding. I did indeed tell him to charge it to myself - or the Bishop meaning that he should charge it to <u>me</u>; but giving the Bishop's name as a sort of collatteral security. But I can not suffer my good Bishop to pay it, and shall write to Latimer instructing him to charge it to me - As I leave the Library here in this parish for my successor, you may settle

the Bill if you see fit - you would greatly oblige me by so doing - amount $22.47 -

As for those other books I scarcely know what to say - The School Books perhaps had better be given to some charity school there at home, as we have no such school here. The Prayer Books I should like to have, and will send you the directions in my next. Of Sunday School Books we have of all kinds sufficient for the present; donations from Christian friends in your City. I expect to open my school in Boonville first Monday in May. Mrs P. will not be able to leave this place in some 3 or 4 weeks; as Providence has lately sent us a young Missionary she is engaged in taking care of him. The Mother is doing well and my own health is quite good, for all which blessings God's holy name be praised. In the Bonds of Chst

Yours &c. (signed) F. F. Peake

P.S. Of course I need not repeat that your letters are always gratifying - I would not be troublesome, but please write as often as convenient.

Booneville (Mo.) Sept. 7th. 1838

Dear Madam

Yours of the 16th. ult.o was rec.d some days since - this is the first leisure moment I have found to answer it. Your long silence was disheartening. In my present lonely situation, the operations of your Society affect me perhaps more than you are aware of - Beyond the few immediately around me you are my only earthly supports, and I sometimes feel as though you, of all the Church are the only persons "who care for our state". I call on the Committee - their answer is "we will do what we can." I beseech my Brethren in the ministry to come over and help us - "They all with one consent begin to make excuse". Is it strange then, that under such circumstances, I turn with more than common interest to your little band? No indeed! My heart overflows with gratitude to the Father of mercies, when I think of the helps he has raised up for us there. My daily prayer is, that He will give you grace to hold on and be faithful, diligent in well-doing, and that even in this life, you may be abundantly rewarded for your toils. That reward will be, an increase of faith and love - a more ardent

and heartfelt devotion to his cause.

But your letter — its arrival cheered me for it showed that the same generous sympathy - the same warm Christian affection which has characterized all your communications, was still alive in your hearts. This assured me that your prayers are still given in behalf of the great work in this region - that the advancement of the Redeemers Kingdom is still the grand object for which you live. Like one of old "I thanked God and took courage".

You ask me to "write freely of my hopes, fears and wishes". Perhaps it would have been better for myself, so far as I am personally concerned, had I done so before. but I did not feel that I had any right to obtrude any thing upon your attention, which did not immediately concern the cause. The difficulties and privations of the missionary himself are matters of inferior moment, and yet in one sense, I do feel, that they affect the cause also — In a Country like this where there is so much worldliness and where the Church is so little known, more depends upon the domestic situation of the missionary than many are apt to imagine —

Of this however some other time - I must

I must answer your queries. The number of communicants at this place is eight - 2 males 6 females. At Fayette five 1 male 4 females. At Fulton 3 females, At Columbia one female.

As to your valuable suggestion. I had been too long engaged in the S. School, and too close an observer of human nature not to have perceived its wisdom. Still I thank you for it, as another proof of your zeal. How far I am able to act upon it, will be seen, when I have given you a more minute account of my past, and present duties. You are aware that the four stations above named have been entire-ly under my charge with the exception of the 9 mos. during which Brother B— was here at Boonville. Their circuit is 115 miles. Meanwhile for the last year and a half, I have endeavored to make out a support for myself and family without aid from the Committee. The object was chiefly to extend my influence, as well as to give my salary to support a missionary somewhere else. During the last year at Fayette I gave four hours per day to the school. and among those seventy pupils my labors were not lost to the Church. When Brother B. left here, I was induced to remove again; and here too I found it necessary to engage in

teaching for the reasons above named. I have therefore labored eight hours per diem in my school here doing all the teaching alone. The Institution is in a prosperous state, but its proceeds will not defray my expenses. But the object is, to establish a large female boarding school for the whole upper country. It is much needed - would be well sustained as to pupils, and I am sure would be a great auxilliary to the Church. I had previously purchased ground, which I shall devote exclusively to that purpose, and am now trying to erect a small dwelling [without a cent to do it with] - But besides my labors in the schools, I have had the care of my wife and child, neither of whom are in good health, and the other parishes to attend to. My studies and writing have been done chiefly after other folks have retired for rest; we have had but one small room - sometimes no servant - and yet are obliged to see more or less company - In the course of less than two years I have travelled upwards of 1800 miles mostly on horseback, and have now trips which must be performed within 5 weeks which will extend 215 miles further. You may judge of the amount of time left for parochial visiting - and yet that

part of my duty is not wholly neglected - Still much more might be done in that way, and great good would result from it - but what can I do? I don't like the idea of giving up the School - it is too important to the church - it must go on, and so long as I receive nothing from the Committee I must labor in it myself. The Church here can do nothing, the members are too poor - Even the rent of the House of worship, I defray myself - Yet I feel that God is carrying on a good work among them and I am therefore content.

Forgive this scrawl, and if there be any thing in it which looks like murmuring, blot it out. God is gracious to me and has blest me far beyond my deserts - He has given me friends, and the higher consolations of his spirit are not with-holden. Why should I complain? Nay I thank Him that He permits me to labor.

In his infinite mercy may He bless and keep you all and enable you to hold on "faithful unto death". With esteem your servant

and fellow laborer in Christ

(Signed) F. F. Peake

To Miss Anna T. De Coster, Lizzy &c. Philada.

I. D. Davis Pittsburgh, H. N. Davis St. Louis, I. L. Collins Boonville - About building a Church we are still encouraged. Nothing directly from friends in N. Y. but I feel confident of some assistance from there - Also something from Citizens of this place. A Church we must have - D. V.

Boon ville (Mo.) Novem.r 14th 1838

To Miss Ann T. Da Costa
Secy &c.
Dear Madam

Yours of the 22nd Ult.o came to hand a few days since as usual full of kindness and encouragement.

For these renewed evidence of your "diligence in well doing" and devotion to the cause of Christ it were needless for me to express my thanks, you have a higher reward.

It was truly gratifying to hear from yourselves that the apprehensions, lately expressed, were entirely groundless, but perhaps no part of your letter was more deeply interesting, than that which related to the efforts you are making to aid us in erecting a decent edifice for the public worship of Almighty God. The importance of such an object, as a means to the great end, for which the religion of Christ was instituted, Cannot be properly estimated by any one, not acquainted from personal observation, with the actual circumstances of our case. Certainly not by those who, all their life time, have been accustomed to the privileges of public worship, in a community where a healthful moral influence pervades all ranks and classes.

You desire me "to state some of the advantages to the cause of religion which would arise from having a church erected in this place." Of course I need mention those only which are, in some measure peculiar to our situation.

1st. Its effects upon the inhabitants of the place. A few *facts* here will be sufficient. Boonville, considered as to its location, its trade, its population &c. is unquestionably, of all the Towns in Missouri, next in importance to St. Louis. It is of some sixteen years growth, and yet until within two months past, has never contained one solitary place of worship public. The Methodist House has just been completed. This single fact of itself speaks volumes, and upon the obvious consequences of such total apathy on the subject of religion, as it plainly evinces, there is no necessity that I should enlarge. I will only say that as regards both individuals and families, they are truly alarming. During the past year, several sabbaths have passed, when to my certain knowledge, not thirty individuals in the whole Town, have attended any place of worship whatever. Ask them the reason of such neglect of an acknowledged duty,

and they all assign the same - "We dont like to go to that dirty little School room; if there were a church where we and our families could have a seat of our own, we should be glad to attend - as it is, it cannot be expected - The excuse seems plausible, and they rest in it, without troubling themselves to enquire whose is the fault. With their present dispositions and feelings it is evident they never will do much towards erecting a church for themselves, because they do not feel its necessity. But if by doing (in part at least) that for them, which they ought to do for themselves, we can deprive them of the excuse they now offer; and thus bring them within the sphere of a more direct religious influence, the result, with Gods blessing, in a few years will be that the very people who now will do nothing even for themselves, will then be found active in extending similar privileges to others, I know of no other way to reach them. For two years the missionary has been laboring in this place, but his efforts have been in a measure thrown away, because the Gospel can not be brought to bear upon them under such circumstances.

2nd Its effects upon the prosperity of our Missions in Upper Missouri. As the Church is but little known - her numbers comparatively small, and her prospects of increase not particularly flattering just now, there is evidently an apprehension in the minds of many who are favorably inclined towards her institutions, that our operations in this country will, ere long, be altogether abandoned. They fear that the missionary disheartened by the obstacles which to them seem insuperable may yet give up in despair and leave the few who may have embraced the Episcopal Church to find a home in some more success-ful communion. This apprehension is often expressed and so long as any grounds for it exists will prove a serious drawback upon our enterprize. This remark applies with equal force, to all the places in this upper country and the good effects of building a Church here, at this central position would be immediately perceptible throughout the whole region, it would give a character of fixedness and determination to our operations which is essential to any degree of success; but which they cannot have until

this object is effected.
Finally, it will prove an actual saving of expense to the church at large. It is my settled conviction that so soon as an edifice can be completed and the pews offered for sale or rent, the missionary will be supported without further aid from abroad. Nay more, that the congregation would immediately commence repaying the debt by their contributions to the missionary fund.

Such, Ladies, are some of the advantages, many others might easily be pointed out. I leave it to our Christian friends at the East, to say whether they shall soon be realized, or whether the missionary must be doomed to labour on under so many discouragements until the small congregation shall be enabled to do it for themselves.

On the praiseworthy efforts of your association we rely much - perhaps the good Spirit of God may put it into the hearts of others to assist you. Whatever you can raise will be the more gratefully accepted from the fact, that it comes without the necessity of my leaving the scene of my labors to go and ask it. Our friends in New

York have kindly engaged to aid us on condition of my coming on to collect the funds myself. To this I am opposed upon principle as it involves too great an expense of both time and money, and however gratifying on some accounts the journey might be, I cannot consent to leave this field where the Church has placed me until I see my place supplied by another that our congregations may not be dispersed during my absence.

The business in relation to the $125. must be deferred 'till another time. I will give you my decision soon. Bishop Kemper has been here, and has just left for the Indian Country. He received your letter and Resolution and with the Committee arranged the matter the best way they could. Commend me affectionately to your association. Mrs P. desires me to express her thanks to Miss E. Conrad for her kindness to the little Missionary.

Yours sincerely (signed) J. F. Peake

P.S. This letter is at your service. Should any part of it be published in "the Recorder" it would probably be copied into "the Churchman" also. The New Yorkers must assist us some, and without my coming, too.

Boonville Novem.r 24th 1838

Miss Ann T. DaCosta, Secy &c.

Dear Madam

Should I become burdensome from the frequency of my communications the fault must be laid at your own doors like an indulged child your kindness has spoiled me. The object of this is to explain something further, the state of my pecuniary affairs, a subject always disagreeable even to think of, but necessary to be attended to, so long as flesh and blood make a part of our nature. You are aware I believe that I had once endeavored to maintain myself and family without assistance from the Committee. This I found by experience to be utterly impracticable without trespassing further upon the kindness of family connections than justice would sanction and therefore I was obliged to fall back once more upon the liberality of the Church. Application was made to the Board about the time that Bishop Kemper visited New York. After receiving your note containing the Resolutions of your society, he visited the Committee and made an arrangement with them

which he thought would accomplish your charitable designs and at the same time cause no hard feeling on the part of the Board. They voted me a salary of $250 per annum to commence the first of Jan'y last, which was very liberal, on the supposition that my labors in the School would bring in at least as much more. But, the Institution was just commencing and of course not larger and after deducting rent, a part of the furniture &c. the nett proceeds amounted to $95. perhaps $100. The total of the year's salary will therefore be $345 or $350 while my expenses (absolutely necessary) have amounted to over $500. for the same time. Thus altho' the Committee have done all they were enabled to do (and more indeed than I asked for) still I shall come out at the end of the year, minus somewhere about $150 - it was nearly as much, the last year. Now this were nothing if I had means of my own at command; as it is, it makes my situation rather undesirable in this respect. For the present session of the school I have engaged an assistant. I spend but little time in the school daily, of course after deducting salary of Assistant, room rent, fuel,

&c. the proceeds of this session will be small.

It may be asked "Why engage in teaching at all under such circumstances?" My answer is, because an Institution like this, conducted upon Christian principles is an object of the highest importance as regards the future growth of the Church and the promulgation of sound Christian principles in this Country. It is much needed by the community and will be eventually well supported. But all institutions of the kind must have a beginning and while founding them, the profits yielded must be small.

Setting all other things aside however, I would prefer being connected with an Institution of the kind, if no compensation were received. It is doing more for the Church than I could do in any other way.

From the preceding statements, you will infer that the offer from your society of transmitting the half years contribution, could not be otherwise than gratifying to your (in this respect) perhaps over sensitive correspondent. Funds I must have, from some source, and whether thro' the Committee or directly from yourselves, it amounts to the same thing.

But, there is another difficulty - what will
the Committee say if after having accepted
their liberal offers I receive yours also? Will
they not depend upon you to assist in
redeeming their pledge? This is a point
on which I have doubts, but if after
considering the matter again, you see fit to
do as proposed, I will risk it and explain the
affair to them as satisfactorily as possible
Act as shall seem best, not for me particu-
larly, but for the interests of the Church Catho-
lic and the Glory of God. If you decide to
send it you may deposit the amount wi
some Mercantile house (say Richard Ashurs
& Sons) and send their check or draft by m
When the Bishop returns I will get his opini
about it, and should he think the plan
objectionable in any way I will then retur
the check and you may pay it over to the
Committee as heretofore. The reason why
I write before consulting him is, that if I
can depend upon that sum I should li
to know it immediately in order to ma
other arrangements if it should not come
I must therefore beg of you to answer this
soon as circumstances will allow.

My small dwelling is going on an

we expect to get into it in about 3 weeks; for this, and also for the erection of a school house in the Spring I am obliged to loan money of friends at the East. The grounds are becoming valuable so that I do not fear to act upon this principle, knowing that my creditors will always be secure.

Excuse me Madam for having thought and talked so much about Dollars & cents — this is a gross, gross world we live in and sometimes one feels almost disgusted with it, and all its concerns. But blessed be God, we have the promise of a better one soon. That is our true home; towards it then let us always look and by steadfast faith, prepare ourselves for its pure enjoyments —

In the love of Christ Your servant
(signed) J. F. Peake.

Steam Boat Clyde
Missouri River March 26. 1839

Miss Ann T. Da Costa
Secy &c. &c.
Dear Madam

Having just now more leisure than usual I gladly embrace the opportunity to give your association a letter which has been

due for a long time. It may perhaps be unnecessary for me to state the reasons why they have not had one sooner; hoping that inasmuch as I have usually been punctual in the discharge of this duty their Christian charity will insure my forgiveness, if I have been in fault. Of one thing they may always rest assured; viz. that whether I write frequently or very seldom, their labors are in no danger of being unappreciated. What I have often said on that subject I will here repeat - that aside from the consciousness that God is with me, and that his promises are sure, there is no one consideration which gives me such comfort and such encouragement in my arduous duties as the thought that the fervent prayers of your devoted little band are daily offered up for the divine blessing upon this holy cause. And could I believe that in what you are doing by way of your various contributions, you were actuated by any, save the only pure motive viz. the Glory of the Redeemer and the salvation of souls, I should be deprived of a holy joy and satisfaction which no one perhaps can imagine. For, if any thing short of this be the impelling motive your "prayers"

would not, like the centurion's, go up with your "alms" as a memorial before God; your works would not be accompanied by your faith - and neither alone can be acceptable to Him who looks upon the heart. Do not think that I am accusing you of wanting in this particular, but while I look with thankfulness upon your self denying efforts, your munificence in giving so liberally of your worldly substance, I cannot but feel a "Godly jealousy" lest the enemy should yet beguile you to rest satisfied with the bare act of giving and thus not only deprive the cause of the blessing from your exertions but also jeopardise your own everlasting happiness - We know but too well that such is the tendency of our fallen natures and the christian who has not felt this tendency in himself is but partially acquainted with the secrets of his own heart. And why is it, let me ask, that the doctrines of the Gospel are not diffused with the same rapidity now, as in the first two centuries after their promulgation? Why is it, that in these days whole nations are not seen bowing before the mighty efficacy of these heavenborn truths?

have these truths themselves changed? have our obligations changed? is God less willing to grant the necessary aid now than at that period? By no means - Wherefore then the comparative inefficiency of Christian efforts in this age of light and knowledge? To me, the answer seems plain - We rely too much upon our own strength and too little upon the aid of God's Spirit - in other words, <u>we want more faith</u>. More of that entire dependence upon grace from above which was so beautifully exemplified in the conduct of the early Christians. And among no class of Christians, I regret to say, is this deficiency more manifest, than among ministers of the Gospel. While therefore I am urging you to put more ~~[illegible]~~ confidence in the promises of God and trust more to the efficacy of fervent prayer I am not unmindful of my own deficiency in me, calls for the more lively and active faith in those who could aid me - Pardon me - I did not intend to read you a homily, but sat down for the purpose of telling you something by way of encouragement. For I rejoice in the belief that the fruits of your "patient continuance in well doing" are even now becoming manifest -

In every blessing which the Father of Mercies is pleased to bestow upon the feeble efforts of your Missionary I feel that you have a share. inasmuch as they may have been given more through the instrumentality of your prayers than of my labors. One thing in particular should be a cause of gratitude to us all, viz. that my health has been so mercifully preserved, that for the last six months not an hour has been lost thro' illness. Since the first of Decem: my labors have been rather harder than usual; I have travelled about 450 miles on horseback, have preached at Fayette 14 times, at Fulton 4 times, at Rocheport 3 times, at Mount Forest twice and at Boonville some 16 times. Travelling on horseback at this season is the severest is the severest part of my labor. But the reflection that others are benefitted by these little sacrifices and that Christ died to benefit us all - and that we can never do too much in his holy cause, sustains me wonderfully in my "journeyings often". I informed you I think of the confirmation we had at Fulton when the Bishop was here in Decem: - O that is a dear little flock; indeed if you could witness the overflowing of their

love to God and their thankfulness for his mercies in sending them the Gospel - "the truth as it is in Jesus" - you would almost envy the privilege of riding 100 miles to instruct them and cheer them on. The flock at Fayette is still progressing in Godliness and their advancement in the divine life is a continual source of happiness who has been the instrument of leading them to the saviour. At Boonville we hope to have a confirmation as soon as the Bishop can find time to visit us. I should add, that in both these places our parish library has been greatly blessed to those who have had access to it. Those which you sent last fall will be particularly useful, as I have now six young ladies in my own family and I can see that the books are faithfully used. The Box did not arrive till last Saturday but we had not needed them as we had those which you sent two years since. I should mention that since the 1st Sunday in Jany we have kept up a Sunday School, but as I have no one to superintend in my absence it has not been large. The female Seminary under my care is still doing very well. I hope to

enlarge it some this summer and if possible make it repay something in a pecuniary way for my labour, but even if it should not I feel that my time in it is well employed.

I am now on my way to St. Louis to receive priests' orders; after my return, when I shall have arranged the plan of my summer's operations I shall trouble you again. Meanwhile accept the assurances of my interest in all that you do - My prayers for your success in all your labors of love, and my sincerest wishes for your present and eternal welfare.

Your humble servant in Christ.
(Signed) F. F. Peake.

Boonville Mo. 29 May 1839

Miss A. T. Du Costa Secy &c.

Yours of the 12th Inst. which has just reached me reminds me of a promise which, I can not say was forgotten, but which might have been fulfilled some days since.

When I wrote you on my way to St. Louis, I was doubtful of the result of that visit. Now that I am again at my old post you shall know the state of ~~my~~ our affairs and something

of the present prospects. The general plans for missionary operations in the different Towns remain the same and will be carried out as heretofore God giving me health. But in consequence of enlarging my sphere of labor in the teaching department I shall be obliged to visit the more distant stations less frequently than I should have done under different circumstances - But I have now some hope of being relieved by a Brother from Virginia who if he comes will relieve me of Fayette and perhaps some others.

You are aware with how much interest I have looked forward to the establishment of a female seminary in this place as a means of operating on the community at large by extending the knowledge of the church doing away with prejudices and gaining the affections of the people. Well, every month's experience convinces me more and more of the excellence of this plan and consequently of the policy of carrying it out. And so firmly am I persuaded of this truth that of choice I would labor four or six hours per day in a good school of this kind even were I to receive no pecuniary compensation. I do believe that such labor would be of more advantage to the cause of

religion than an equal amount bestowed any where else in such a community as this.

Hence I kept up the school last winter tho' at a sacrafice of something more perhaps than the time. But my object was gained, and now I am enjoying some of the fruits of my former toil. It gives me pleasure to state that the school is quite flourishing - that its reputation is increasing and that there can be no doubt of the complete success of my plans should my health be spared.

There are already upwards of sixty pupils, some twenty of whom are from abroad. We have seven in our family and five more have places engaged with us and will be in this week. This completes the number we can accomodate. In our family we have also one French & Music Teacher, Miss Daly from New York. She was formerly a teacher for me in St. Marks S. School in that City and knowing her peculiar fitness for this field of labor I sent for her this spring and truly she proves a most valuable accession to our school. Affectionate and concilia-ting in her disposition and sincerely pious, she has gained already a great

influence over the young ladies of the school and particularly our boarders. This influence of course is always salutary. In fact I believe she will do more for the Church and religion in this Country than a clergyman could do, who lacked her peculiar qualifications.

So you see, in the school, we are going on bravely; as I am constantly in it and have no assistant except Miss D. I am in hopes it will afford me sufficient income to enable me to get along without help from the Committee.

By the way, among our boarders is one whom I am educating for a teacher. She is about seventeen - apt to teach, docile, intelligent - Her family is poor. I board educate and clothe her this summer, and shall place her in some country school afterwards where she may repay the debt by imparting knowledge to others. Your books she has read with much eagerness: if I mistake not she will be confirmed in the fall. Let me not forget to tell you, that those same books have proved a most valuable present; at some future period the fruits of your beneficence may appear

more evident. Meanwhile let it be an encouragement to you that they are read and read attentively. Our congregation is slowly increasing. four weeks since I administered the communion for the first time to a Lady left a widow with two small children, and the next communion there will be another whose husband was drowned a few weeks since in the Missouri. We have received a donation of a lot for a church and shall soon organize a congregation. On the whole our prospects are brightening and we may take courage.

For your kind offer of the Box to be sent on, accept my sincere thanks, but pray don't forward it just now, as the freights are enormous. The charges on the other, tho' weighing but about one cwt. were upwards of $7. from Pittsburg!! In August it can be sent with other goods for this place at a much lower price.

Should Mrs P. return to her friends in the fall she will be most happy to accept of your hospitalities so generously tendered. Her health is still feeble tho' we are hoping to see it recruited as the summer advances

But whatever may be the issue we strive to be resigned to the will of Him who knows best what is for our good.

Can I say aught to encourage you to hold on in the great and glorious cause? Consider the results of your labors as seen even now, and then look forward to "the joy set before you". The crown of life everlasting. May God bless and keep you all.

Affectionately Yours
in Christ Jesus.
(signed) F. F. Peake

B

Boonville Oct.r 21st 1839

Miss Ann T. Da Costa
Secy &c.
Dear Madam

Your favor of 28th ult.o is now before me - found here to day upon my return from St. Louis. Every letter you write lays me under new obligations - God grant that my zeal to discharge them by more earnest devotion to his cause may increase

in proportion.

I am desirous to answer your letter and to say something further by way of encouragement in your self-denying labors - Sorry am I to confess however that I have nothing of the kind to offer - on the contrary I fear that when my story is told, you will be almost discouraged perhaps may think that even your past efforts have been nearly thrown away.

You were aware of Mrs. Peake's desire and intention of visiting her friends this fall. So arduous had been her duties during the summer that her health had suffered extremely. At one time I feared that I should be obliged to go to the South with her this winter, or at least accompany her to N. J. Of late her health improved and rather than take me from my post, she resolved to attempt the journey without me - Especially as Brother Minard and Lady of St. Louis were going directly to Philada. -

At the close of the session we prepared every thing necessary to my carrying

on the school during the winter and I fully expected to do so. When we arrived at St. Louis whither I had accompanied her I found matters in the large ~~[illegible]~~ congregation of Christ Church in that City in much confusion. Brother Minard was about leaving the City and the College and Br. Heyer who had been the Bishop's late assistant was also on the point of leaving. The Bishop as Rector was left alone - the con=gregation not well united and a fair prospect before him of losing some members unless some step was taken immediately -

He had an appointment for Green Bay in a few weeks and must leave soon = as a dernier resort he requested your missionary to leave his post here and come to his aid - a request backed by the vestry and some of the most influential members of the congregation. Tempting as the offer was, I yet firmly rejected the proposal, stated my objections -, was overruled - and - finally consented. But only

upon these conditions - viz. that at present I must be considered still as the Missionary at B. - that my connection with the parish should be understood as only "pro=tempore" - and that I should have the privilege of leaving, so soon as a permanent assistant could be obtained from the East. There were many objections to my leaving Boonville - the great success of the school, the partial engagement to continue it, and the consequent expectations of its patrons - the injury the church would suffer in my absence &c. &c. They met these by proposing the situation of that congregation, confessedly the most important one, west of the mountains, and tried to prove that I could do more for the church at large by laboring in St. Louis. I doubted the force of the last mentioned arguments but had some of my own more to the point. I grant that my labors are needed here; but I really needed repose, or at least a change of labor. I had worn my-

self down - had got out of sermons and saw no prospect of getting leisure to write more - In fact I was ruining my mind and injuring the cause. Again, I did not like the idea of living during this winter with such a family under such circumstances - an hour's idle tattle might have destroyed my reputation forever.

3rdly An absence of six months will in reality prove an advantage to the school, perhaps to the church, also it will stir them up to do something for themselves. Thus I have stated the plan and the reasons - May I not look for the sanction of your society? Ought I to have decided differently? I hesitate even now; I fear self has had too much hand in the matter. O that I may live more for Christ and his blessed Gospel!

I expect to leave here in a few days - shall leave all my Books, furniture &c. The box you mention shall be taken care of, subject to your further order, until there shall be a missionary at B. to receive them

You will please accept my unfeigned thanks – but I trust that I shall soon get back here again myself.

I hope to do something in St. Louis towards raising funds for building a church next spring – That will also form a great object in my contem=plated tour to the East. So that whether I return here or not I shall still exert myself to see a Church Erected.

Mrs. P. will leave St. Louis about this date. I return soon. She will proba=bly see you, and give you a more detailed account of our affairs. Please answer this and direct to St. Louis – Meanwhile with prayers for your advancement in the divine life and the well being of your society, I remain

Your servant in the Gospel

(signed) H. H. Peake

Copies of Letters relating to the Church at Huntingdon — to — The Secretary of the Female Missionary association of Christ Church Philadelphia

Lewistown Pa. Nov 21st. 1836

Dear Madam

It is a matter of no little regret to me, that the lapse of a month after the date of your kind favor before this can be received by you, should have (as no doubt it has) brought me under the charge of great neglect. It was however but yesterday that your letter came to hand, this was owing to its having been directed to Huntingdon which place, I visit but once a month, making Lewistown my residence, and judging from the date it must have reached the former just after my previous Sunday in that town.

It so happens that the feelings and disposition of the ladies of Christ Church exactly corresponds with the wishes — the anxious wishes of the Episcopalians of Huntingdon. If you have had any acquaintance with the Episcopal Church in this region you are aware that at one period the number of our communion was larger in that county than of any other denomination; but in consequence of untoward circumstances we are now dwindled to insignificance, the most influential families have removed or are extinct; and, very many for want of

our services and the little prospect of having the necessity permanently supplied have joined other Churches. A consider-able number still retain an unshaken attachment to our Church, and seem determined to die with the name of Episco-palians though they should not be permitted to worship under a roof of their own or to have resident in their midst a shepherd for their own souls and the souls of their children.

They are convinced that one reason why they are not now more numerous, is because that plans frequently formed for the erection of a building have never been carried out, and they fear (and that too with reason) that unless now a vigorous and successfull effort be made to that end the very name of our Church, will die with them or at least be transmitted without benefit to their children.

But the number of Episcopalians is small and their means extremely limited. In the country generally Christains of different names are liberal in assistance to each other in the erection of places for public worship; but our friends at Huntingdon have so often made trials and their weakness is so well known that their late applications have in many cases been met with the reply that they are too weak to attemp the erection of a Church and what might be subscribed would be invested in an under-taking which could not be completed and the history of the building would only be a repetition of that of very many others, "that being encumbered" by a debt it was impossable to pay "the Shiriff has put it up to the

to the highest bidder" If however the prospect of consid
erable help from abroad could be entertained and assured
to the people generally it would have a tendency to
elicit all the efforts of Episcopalians and secure
the help of other Christians After carefull inquiry
and calculation the extent of what could be
raised here alltogether, seems to be $1000. or thereabout
perhaps by special effort it might reach $1200.
For the rest we must look abroad. We could not
think of commencing to build without a subscrip
=tion of from $1500. to $2000. Toward the making up
of that sum the offer of the society in whose name you
have so kindly addressed me, would be no inconsiderable
addition; From what I have written however it must
be evident to you that the sum mentioned in your
letter could only be of use in case the liberality of other
of other friends should add to it and secure us from
abroad at least $500. Christ Church is the only quarter
to which we look with any reasonable expectation.
The reason you gave as having prompted the
the Female Missionary Association. we hope might
induce some of the rest of your congregation to add
to the sum your society so handsomely offers.
Such an application we contemplate to make
If a knowledge of the circumstances of the case should
lead the ladies of your association to think there might be
ground for increasing that liberal offer and you

would be so kind as to notify me of it immediately it would no doubt not go far toward securing the success of the measure. As a final word of encouragement to this, let me say, that though the number of Episcopalians in Huntingdon be now small there is every prospect of increase. The respect and affection of many are toward us. Besides the firm establishment of the Church there would in all probability lead to the furtherance of it throughout all this region. But before this can be we must have help. The Providence of God seems to have directed our eyes toward you

With great Respect
Sam. truly Yours &c
(signed) John F. Hoff

Lewistown Sep. 21st 1840

Dear Madam

Your favor of the 14th inst was duly received, and should have had an immediate answer, but that I was compelled to await the return to town of my senior Warden with whom I felt it my duty to consult. The opinion of Mr. Hall and of all my vestry with whom I have had the opportunity of conferring, is that a weekly service at H. would be out of the question. That it could not certainly be accomplished without giving three full days in each week which would of course interfere with my preparation of services

for Lewistown. But the greater stress is laid by them on the amount of duty and travelling it will call for from me which during the winter and on the mountains, would certainly not be trifling. our numbers, too, are very small at H and judging from what I have all ready seen of zeal for the Church, even here, where she has been long established, it is exceedingly doubtfull whether a weekly congregation could be gathered together. I trust the ladies will not infer that I am luke warm on the subject - far from it. Would that every hamlet in our neighborhood and throughout the state could be seen with its little bands of faithfull worshipers clinging to the Church of Christ that sacred ark which He has prepared for the tempest tost pilgrim. But it is well always to look at things as they really are, lest disappointed hope prepare the way for total abandonment. If the people of Huntingdon desire it, they shall cheerfully have my services once a month, on sunday, and once a fortnight during the week; if such an arrangment can be made without interfering too much with my duties at Lewistown. I shall write to Genl Wilson, on the strenth of your application to me, and ascertain what the wishes of Churchmen may be. In the meantime I would prefer that you should lay the matter before the Bishop as a missionary of the advancement Society, it is for him to assign me the station in addition to Lewistown, and of course under any circumstances his will should

be consulted. In regard to the salary very kindly tendered by the ladies of your association I would prefer it should be no more than to defray the expences of travelling to and from Huntingdon

Very Respectfully

(Signed) William White Bronson

Miss Ann T. Da Costa

P.S. I took the liberty of communicating the facts of your letter to Mr Garber of Hollidaysburg

Lewistown Pa Oct 27th 1840

I returned last evening from my visit to Huntingdon and in accordance with the request made in your last letter embrace the earliest opportunity of communicating the result of my visit and enquiries. I preached in the morning and evening in the Presbyterian meeting house as the rector was absent, and the use of their building was tendered to me by the Trustees I found a few of our brethren who are able to make the responses and alltogether the services were conducted much better than I had supposed they would be. The house was filled in the morning and also in the evening with the usual congregation and I believe the only source of complaint against me (it was the only one which reached my ears) was my preaching from a manuscript. The gentlemen who called to tender the use of the Church, said all they could to discourage the undertaking and I perceived they are exceedingly

jealous of us. The fact is their own minister is described as being a very dull, uninteresting man and the younger portion particularly would I think attend our services regularly and might in time be weaned from the Puritan Prejudices which are very strong in all this region of country. I found there two sincere Churchmen who will not allow their families to attend every where unless they can enjoy our own services but unfortunately their worldly circumstances will not allow of their doing as much as their truly Christian zeal would prompt. I ascertained that there were 2 lots granted by Rev Wm Smith "of famous memory" proprietor of the town for the use of a Church if improved within 20 years, that period has elapsed and they have now reverted to Richard Penn Smith of Philadelphia, but we are in hopes that we will be released on an application to that effect. I trust you may see Mr Williams of Hollidaysburg now in the City and that he will state the proposition I have made. They are expecting a Mr Burton lately ordained and my suggestion is this that he should officiate one sunday in each Month and myself once, thus giving them 2 Sundays services in each month, that whatever could be raised in Huntingdon in the way of salary should be paid to Mr Burton thus aiding our friends at Hollidaysburg in the support of their pastor. As I was obliged to return yesterday I had no time to call upon the families of our friends, but have promised to do so at our next appointment. I took up with me the only 2 prayer books I had left

for my own parish, and about 50 tracts. could you send me a parcel of the latter for their use? We chiefly want those which treat upon our peculiarities — the companion to the prayer book — Three fold ministry &c &c. They are ignorant — in fact not one person in a hundred. (I speak on the authority of an old resident) in all this region have never seen a prayer book. Genl. Wilson will go to the city in December when I will furnish him with a letter to you. He hopes by that time to know exactly what can be done. We want a building of our own. My hands feel tied while dependent on any sect for accomodation and cannot pretend to urge distinctive principles as it would appear like abusing ones host in his own house. If we were by ourselves and they choose to come they might expect to hear the truth however offensive to their contracted prejudices, The estimated cost of a neat brick Church is $ 2.500.00 The Governor was in Church in the morning & as Huntingdon was formerly his place of residence would perhaps if solicited, aid us in our design. You will please excuse this scrawl — I am suffering from a cold which with the fatigue of a cold ride yesterday over a very rough road has unfitted me for anything requiring much care — Knowing you would be anxious to hear I determined to write at once, trusting to your disposition to make all due allowance

Very Respectfully in haste

(Signed) William White Bronson

P.S. A bundle of Tracts directed to me to the care of Mr. I &

J Milliken if sent to Mr Humphrey's at the Walnut Street Warf Schuylkill would reach me in safety — a mixture of practical and doctrinial would be preferable —

Huntingdon Pa. Feby 24th 1841

To The Ladies Missionary Association of Christ Church Philadelphia

The vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church of Huntingdon have for some time contemplated adressing your association on the subject of your friendly offer of aid to us, in our efforting on behalf of the Protestant Episcopal congregation to erect here a building to be dedicated as a place of public worship. We are happy to acknowledge the rect of your letter of the 19th ult. from Miss M Da Costa to Mr Maize, and pleased to learn that the society still feel interested for us.

With assistance of our friend the Rev. Mr Hoff we some time since made an effort to build a Church which we did hope would have proven successfull. and had purchased a lot — advertised letting of the building & but from untoward circumstances our views were at that time thwarted. Ground for a Church was by the proprietor of the Town appropriated, but the congregation desiring another location we attempted to purchase another lot, The purchase has been relinquished, and at the meeting of the Vestry we have determined to proceed with as little delay as possable to erect a Building on the site (if funds

can be raised) belonging to the Church. We have raised a subscription of which we think $100 at least will be paid and expect to raise additional.

We most earnestly hope that the funds kindly raised by your association and originally designed to aid our small and poor congregation in the erection of a building, may not now be appropriated elsewhere.

Our design is to proceed to building as soon as we have assurance of the appropriation of the sums heretofore raised by your society and the Rev.d Mr Hoff.

We hope by economy and our exertions to be able to have the Building erected.

The Rev.d William White Bronson having kindly offered to preach as often as convenient to the congregation. The vestry have concluded to occupy the Court house instead of applying to other denominations.

On behalf of the vestry of St John's Church Huntingdon and with sincere desire for the progress of the Church.

We have the honor to be
very respectfully
Your Obedient Serv.ts
(Signed) A. P. Wilson.
Wray Maize
Joseph Stewart

Huntingdon 28th March 1841

Miss Ann T DaCosta

I recd your kind communication dated 19th January 1841. and through the medium of the vestry did write you an answer of the Members of St Johns Church Huntingdon. But to my great surprise as yet have not had any answer, which letter was put in our mail on about the tenth of March and fearing that you have not Recd it, is the cause of my addressing you at this time, as you have stated to me, you have learned that I am a member of the Episcopal Church, which is true and never can be a member of any other Church I feel very desirious of having regular Service of the Church administered here, as I have a family under my superindance which I mean to have raised to the doctrine of Episcopacy and none other.

You stated that you have collected for the building of a Church in this place about $400,— for that purpose and I understand that the Revd Mr Hoff has collected about $400. for the same purpose. The congregation here can make about the same amount of $1200 and we suppose this amount would build a Church very good for our congregation

We have four lots of ground on a very fine eminence which over looks the town, which was bequeathed to the Episcopalians by the Revd Wm Smith which was the original owner of the town. I hope you will give

me by return mail an answer and remain your affectionate Brother in the Lord with my humble prayer.

(Signed) Wm Maize

N.B. Please let me know if you rec^d my first letter

Friday Evening
Nov 11th 1842

To Miss Ann F. DaCosta
My Dear Lady

In reply to your note just rec^d allow me to say that I have no expectation whatever that six months missionary duty will be of any avail at Huntington. But, that the Ladies Missionary Association of Christ Church may satisfy themselves, I hereby agree that they may send a missionary to that place for one year, he having the approbation of the "Ecclesiastical Authority" of this diocese, which I will readily give. Perhaps he ought also for the sake of uniformity to be appointed at a nominal salary, by the Society for advancement, which will no doubt be done

Very respectfully
Your friend & Ob^t Servt
Signed B. T. Onderdonk

Huntingdon Jany 1st 1844

My dear Madam

I hope you will think with me, that it is quite time I did something towards keeping my promise, to inform you of my movements here, and of the condition of the little congregation, in which you as well as some others are so much interested.

There seemed the less necessity of my writing at a much earlier period of my stay here; as I had no definite information to give you. Perhaps you will think I have none now, and as you must have heard from me more than once through our friend Mr Newbold

I have endevored to learn something of the past history of the Church in this place. It seems the town was settled by an Episcopalian Clergyman, the Revd Doc. Smith, who was sent out to this County from Scotland, by Lady Huntingdon, after whom the town was named.

He was a man of eminent learning, afterwards provost of the University in Philadelphia. Judging from the specimens I have seen of his works, published in two volumes, he must have been an eloquent preacher, at least such he was considered here, the people always flocked to hear him whenever he held service,

My object in stating the above, was to show that in this place our Church would seem to have had a fair start. Had Dr Smith used the influence he possessed in all

this section of country, upon the side of the Gospel and the Church, there would I think, long ago, have been Episcopal congregations of strenth and stability not only in this, but in other parts of its vincinity. But this was not the case. The reputation he has here is anything but creditable to him as a Christian Minister He is remembered as a great speculator, and for his inordinate desire of acquiring lands. He owned at one time immense tracts in this and adjoining counties- Bishop White says of him, "His talents are in no need of my recomendation and had they been devoted to literature and not so much directed to Politics and Speculations in land" there is no knowing the measure of celebrity which might be thought too great to be attained to." Mr. Smith left several portions of land for the use of the different religious denominations of the town + the Baptists only were neglected. Our portion is back from the town, on the side of a hill; so that if we wish to build a church, it would be unsuitable, being to much out of the way and at certain seasons the house would be difficult of access owing to the steepness of the declivity. But perhaps in all this, I am only telling you what you have heard before. if so, I shall be sorry I have wasted so much space. I thought however it would interest you, and tend to show also that from the very begining the people of this place have been reminded in some way or other of the Epis'l Church

I regard my work here as an effort to revive an almost dead parish for as you very well know they are incorporated This is the true light in which to look upon it and it gives me an advantage too when I am told there was no necessity of my coming here to disturb the community, by endeavoring to establish a new religious society. I considered myself as trying to reclaim what has been lost. to build up what has been broken down, to repair the old wastes. The state of the parish is bad enough now. It is but just alive. The charter is either lost, or else in the hands of some one out of town. There has been no election of vestrymen since they last had stated ministrations Of the old vestry there are few left, some have died, some left the town to reside at a distance and others have become Presbyterians. It is plain enough that at one time, there has been a large number who called themselves Episcopalians. On every side I am greeted with the cry "you have come to late, you ought to have come some years ago, and you would have had no difficulty in raising a congregation. Especially after the decease of Revd. Mr James, the sympathy in favor of our Church was very strong, and I am surprised a Church was not built then, and a minister called. But I fear they did not feel very deeply the importance of having the Church among them, or religion of any kind. and I know there was great want of union and sympathy. so as to render it allmost improbible for them to act in concert. Politics was the cause of the mischief. Those who are left

now see their folly, and I think very heartily repent of it, What I said of the fate of the vestry, is true of those who formerly composed the congregation. Mr Aluize, who would have assisted me very much, left town, some time during the past year, but perhaps, will return to reside in the spring. I have not seen or heard from him since I have been here. Many thinking they never would have another minister, and tired of waiting, have united themselves with some one of the religious societies of this place Last winter there was a revival among the Presbyterians, and more then a hundred were added to that communion, so that many who before had no particular attachment to any denomination, have become fixed in their connection with that one. I have been disappointed in a few whom I expected, when I came here, would have been with us. For all these reasons, my congregation is a very small one. There are certainly not more than fifteen whose attendance I can depend upon. The number has been smaller then that upon a few occasions. In the morning the attendance is allways small, except one sunday in the month, when the Presbyterian minister is away in the morning. In the afternoon, it is more numerious, made up of a few from the other societies, and of some young men, who do not. I believe, belong to any where. A few of the latter appear to be interested in our services. I have formed a small class for the catechism. We worship regularly every sunday in what is called the Academy.

I am becoming more interested in my duties & I think the people are in theirs. I confess I did not come here very willingly at first, having a strong previous inclination to overcome. But now I am ready to do all I can towards building up this parish and thus further your wishes trusting in the blessing of God, for whose mercy and forbearance thus far very graciously vouchsafed me, I desire to be thankful. If we do not succeed in establishing permanently a congregation, I hope my ministry will not have been unprofitably exercised, with respect to the few who now compose it. I did not intend to inflict so long a letter upon you. I fear it will task your patience to make it out. It is probable I may have omitted something about which you would like information. If so, I hope you will soon let me know of it, for I trust the writing is not to be all on my side. Will you allow Mr Newbold to see this and give him my best regards. Respects also to the ladies of your family whom I met one evening. Commending the interests of St Johns Church an to the prayers of those who have them at heart believe me my dear madam

very respectfully

(signed) Geo. G Field

P.S. I hope you will write soon and I shall be very glad to receive any suggestions from you

Huntingdon Nov. 7th. 1844

Miss E Bringhurst

My dear Madam

I send you here with the receipt I promised you, signed by the Treasurer of the building fund of our Church. I trust we are none of us unmindful of our indebtedness to you for the favor thus bestowed; and that you may receive that only return for your benefactions - I know you desire the assurance of the temporal and spiritual wellfare of our parish. As to the other receipt, I thought it was just, I should furnish you with it.

Our Church building is rapidly progressing. - It has been somewhat retarded by stormy weather. In about six more fair working days, we think it will be ready for the roof. The style of it is very much admired in town, and as to convenience and utility, it promises to be allmost all we could wish. We shall make an effort to finish the basement room to worship in during the winter, but I do not think successfully. Thus far we are much encourage, We have been prospered allmost beyond our expectations, very far beyond our deserts. Let us hope and pray that God will continue his blessings, and successfully carry forward our undertaking. If you send the tablet this fall, you will give us notice beforehand. I should like to know if this is received. I am somewhat at a loss how to

direct it. having forgotten your number. With much respect

I remain Your friend & Servant
(Signed) Geo. G. Field

Huntingdon Pa. Oct 26th 1844

Recd per the Revd Geo G. Field of the Ladies Missionary Associations of Christ Church Philadelphia Two hundred and fifty Dollars to be applied to the construction of St. Johns Church (Episcopal) now being erected at Huntingdon

(Signed) A. P. Wilson Treasurer
St. Johns Episcopal Church. Huntingdon

Huntingdon Nov 7th 1844

Recd from the Ladies Missionary Association of Christ Church Philada during the year ending Oct. 28th 1844. towards the payment of salary as Minister of St. Johns Church. Huntingdon the sum of Two hundred Dollars in quarterly payments

$200.00 (Signed) Geo. G. Field

Huntingdon Nov 28th 1844

My Dear Madam

Your letter has been received. I suppose by this time you have heard of my letter to Mr. George. I wrote just two weeks ago, asking him to send

me books to the amount of $5.00 and to credit them to my name. I thought we should be able to pay for them ourselves perhaps before long, or else that some other way would be found. As you kindly renew your offer of giving them another way has been found. I sent him a list of the books we have, and left it with him to send me what he choose of those not selected. For as the number composing the Library is not large, and as we have some of the best books, there is not much room for choice left. It would be better if it can be safely sent, that the tablet should be here during the winter, that it may be ready early in the spring for use, I have no expectation that the building will be plastered this winter. I am told the main lines upon the canal have discontinued their trips. One of our townsmen now in the city by the name of Charles Snyder, will probably start another boat before long. If so that would be a good opportunity of sending it. He might be relied on for taking care of it. His boat will start from the establishment of Samuel Davis, somewhere upon the Delaware wharves. I know of no better direction than to my name to the care of Gen. A. P. Wilson, of this place. The tracts will be very acceptable, I am indebted much to you for the trouble taken in providing them, and also for your offer of continued assistance in small matters. I believe I understood the distinction made, I only fear we shall tax your generosity for aid of that kind. Knowing you have solicitations for assistance from others, perhaps more

needy and deserving than we are, I would not wish to direct the whole stream of your beneficiance to ourselves. Our walls have been ready for the roof for many days past. The tower is not yet finished. The roof is partly ready and if the weather permits, will soon be placed upon the building. The church has been much admired by the people of the town. There is I believe but one voice concerning it, and that is of approbation; altho' it yet but faintly shows what it is to be. There have been no additions to the Sunday School or congregation since I returned. The services on Sunday especially in the afternoon continue to be well attended. I think, as a congregation we are looked upon by others as more important, and with a good deal more respect that at this time last year. Let us hope that our effort to establish the ministrations of the Church here may contribute much to elevate and sanctify the whole mass. I thank you in anticipation for the book you say is especially for myself. The name of Cecil is familiar; but I do not think his "remains" have fallen in my way. With much Respect I remain

Your friend and Servant

To Miss Ann. T. Da Costa (Signed) Geo. G. Field

Huntingdon Feb 4th 1845

My Dear Madam

Your letter has been duly received. I was only waiting for one from you, being rather anxious

to write. The Sunday School books have been received and a very liberal supply you have sent us. They ought to answer our purpose for a long time to come. We have great reason to be obliged to you all, and I desire on the part of the Sunday School so to acknowledge your kindness and liberality. I thought it best to put only half the books in the library at present, and have reserved the rest for another time There has been a small accession to the School since I last wrote, We have now about twelve scholars, and four teachers beside myself. We meet but once in the day, and I remain during the whole time myself opening the School and teaching &c. I believe the usual course of instruction is pursued: collect for the day committed to memory, its meaning explained and questions asked upon it. catechising of the whole number or part, every Sunday, and a lesson from the New Testament Scriptures I still think if we ever get into our new church, the Sunday School as well as the congregation will be increased. The Books Mr George selected for us are, I think without exception, old publications, and so are not liable to objection, as you suppose some of the late issues of the Union to be, The tracts, I regret to say have not yet been forwarded. I have need of them, I think the gentleman, who carries this letter, will bring them for me. It is quite as well the tablet was not sent last fall, I would not attempt to forward it untill

the navigation opens in the Spring. I think from your sketch that it will present a handsome appearance, as to its outline, and the disposition of the material. I am very glad you have given me a copy of the proposed inscription, I had some curiosity (not an idle one) to know what it would be, And I now refer to the matter with considerable reluctance, lest what I say might appear as if I held in light esteem, or was disposed to depreciate your generous and persevering exertions in behalf of this Parish. But you will do me the justice to believe I have no such disposition, and that I am only doing as you requested, telling you exactly what I think. I think then the idea in the first half of the inscription is too strongly expressed, and am very sure it would be objected to by the congregation. I spoke with one of the vestrymen about it and such was his opinion. Does it not throw into the back ground, the aid of other contributors, and leave the impression that Christ Church was the chief and largest. We have received from other sources in Philada more than $700., in Cash, $500. entrusted to Mr Binney and $207. that I collected myself. Gen. Wilson one of the wardens has been very liberal, giving part of the ground on which the Church stands, as well as aiding in its erection. I do not think his contribution will fall short of $1000. before it is finished, including the value of the lot, We have thus far fully met our obligations, having paid out, for part of the Church lot, and for building, what is equivalent, more

than $2100. But in order to do this, three of the vestry-men last month advanced $500. upon their private responsability, to be repaid them by a certain time, by money collected from the subscription paper, and by new subscriptions. This I fear cannot be done, as those not members of the congregation pay very slowly. The very few members of the congregation who are able have contributed liberally. The builder in consideration of the sum just mentioned, agreed to go on with the wood work during the winter, preparatory to putting it up in the Spring. Such is about our condition. Instead of being in debt to the builder we are obligated to certain individuals of the vestry. This measure was not resorted to, untill it seemed necessary. Our services are not so well attended now as in milder weather. Unfortunately we are not able to heat the building we ocupy very effectually, upon very cold days, and I fear that keeps some from coming. I look forward to better times in the Spring. I shall feel rejoiced to see the time when we can worship in a church of our own. We have had a good many little discouragments which have greatly perplexed us at the time, but I do think they will not be thought of if we can but reach what we have been aiming at. I hope the coming Lent (now so near) will not be lost upon any of us, but may be truly a season of humiliation and contrition throughout our

whole Church. Surely we have enough to humble us,
I am sorry my paper has given out. I wished to tell
you about services I have held at Water street and
Hollidaysburg since I last wrote. I hope I shall hear
from you again soon. very sincerely wishing you
every needfull blessing I remain

Your friend and Servant
To Miss Ann. H. McCoster. Signed Geo G. Field

Huntingdon March 4th 1845

My Dear Madam

Your letter was duly received, I am
very sorry to hear the tracts have miscarried. I am
greatly in need of a new supply, and could make
good use of them if I had them. You say you think
I will yet receive them if I inquire diligently.
But I cannot so much as inquire where to begin
the inquiry with any probability of success. If I
knew in what way they had been forwarded and to whom
directed, I could do so with greater advantage. Being
enlightened by your better information I freely confess my
error with respect to the part Christ Church has taken
in advancing the interests of our parish. It seems we are
indebted even much more, than I supposed to the liberality
of your congregation, and you are without doubt entitled
to be considered the highest contributor. So little do I like

my present task of seeming to object to what you approved and desire; you to whose assistance we are so greatly obliged, that if I were to follow my present inclination it would be to say to you "put upon the tablet whatever you think proper, send it on it shall be used as intended, and if we are not pleased with, ~~it or not pleased with it~~ it, it is not of very great consequence, we shall soon become satisfied with it."

I know that it has been your desire all along, that the Church erected here, should serve as a memorial of your former pastor, and with this in view, have contributed largely; It is altogether proper that this should be expressed in the inscription, But I thought the proposed inscription asserted it too broadly to meet the whole state of the case; For while you have contributed with this intention, Such is not true of those here who have in any wise assisted in its erection. They have done so from various motives, A desire to raise a monument to the Revd Mr James was not one of them, This may seem to you but a small objection. I thought it proper to mention it, as it may be overcome; You will observe the proposed inscription asserts without qualification the Church was erected as a monument to the memory &c &c You ask me to suggest something, What do you think of the following?

Sacred to the memory

of the

turn over

Revnd John Waller James
who died in this town
Aug. 12th 1836. Aged 31 years.
The congregation of
Christ Church Philada
have mainly contributed to the
erection of this Church
that it may serve as a monument
of their former esteemed
Rector

Perhaps you can improve the above so as to make it answer. If not, as I said before, arrange the tablet according to your own wishes, and I will be satisfied, and you will find the rest of us not hard to please.

Huntingdon is more properly speaking, a town than a village, having corporated privileges; As the Spring is opening upon us early, we are anxious to see our building moving forward. I am expecting the builder every day from Bellefonte.

I have nothing new to add about the congregation. You will let us know when the tablet is shipped. That God will bless your association and crown your endeavours with success is the prayer of your

friend and servant

Miss Ann T. Da. Costa Signed Geo. G. Field

Huntingdon Easter Tuesday, 1845

My dear Madam

As last week was court week, which is usually a busy time in a country town, and for that reason difficult to get the vestry together, I deffered the subject of your last letter until yesterday, Being Easter-monday we were obliged to meet to elect a vestry, and I then submitted your communication, to which the following reply was directed to be sent, which I hope will fully meet your approbation.

To the Ladies Miss. Association of Christ Church Philada.

The Rector and Vestry of St Johns Church, Huntingdon very respectfully acknowledge having received a communication from the Ladies Miss. association of Christ Church Philada. Appreciating the motive which has led to your zealous and persevering efforts to promote the welfare of the Episcopal congregation in Huntingdon, they very cheerfully accede to your request to place within the new Church a tablet such as you propose. They will endeavour to have it neatly and securely inserted in that part of the wall deemed in all respects most suitable, and also guard against its receiving injury through the ignorance or carelessness of workmen. It is impossible at this time to say precisely when it ought to be here. Should the weather prove favorable, they expect the builder to resume work upon the Church early in the

next month. It will be advisable therefore that the tablet be forwarded as soon as it can conviently be done.

The rector and vestry beg you will not consider them insensible to your warm interests, and long continued and active exertions in their behalf. Your contribution last fall to the building of the church was most timely and valuable, for which they desire to express their thankful acknowledgements.

They trust that, with the blessing of God "without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, our mutual efforts will before long be crowned with success, and that you will have reason to believe your prayers and labors have not been unavailing or unfruitful:- the satisfaction of knowing that the Episcopal Congregation in Huntingdon worshipping in their own Church, is increasing, ~~is increasing~~ as well in numbers as in piety, faith and godliness.—

I think you will find the best conveyance for the tablet, by applying to Wright & Nephew Vine St wharf on the Delaware, A boat starts from there which belongs to persons of this town & anything placed in her I think will be well taken care of.

Our builder has been here, and I am encouraged to believe we shall soon recommence upon the Church, In the meantime they are not idle in the shop, I am exceedingly anxious to see the Church finished, but must have patience, Our Services are quite well attended now as

the weather becomes pleasanter. Upon Easter Monday ~~Whitsun~~ day the attendance was very good. There were five communed. A member of our parish a communicant and a very exemplary woman, has lately removed from town. She was one of the oldest Episcopalians in the place, has been steadfast to her Church through evil report and good report, and just as there was a prospect of seeing her hopes realized, an Epis. Church erected in Huntingdon, she was obliged to leave. With her went one of our S.S. scholars. I hope she may return to reside here before a great while. On the other hand, I learn that a family connected with our parish, containing three communicants, who have been living so far from town as not to be able to attend service, are about to move so near that they can do so. I baptized four children a few Sundays since. As it was our first baptism, it excited considerable interest among the strangers, a larger number than usual, who were present. As in temporal, so in spiritual things, I trust we are not without indications of Gods blessing and protection. Believe me very sincerely Your friend and Servant

Miss Ann T. Da Costa (Signed) Geo. G. Freta

Huntingdon Sept. 25th 1848

My Dear Madam

It is indeed true that you have not heard from me for some time. The reason is I did not write during

the summer is simply this; — that I had nothing of moment to tell you, and did not think it worth while to trouble you with a narrative of our little discouragements and delays Our services were often interrupted during the summer in consequence of the congregation to whom the building we used belonged, commencing to occupy it themselves,
For the same reason the S School was for some time discontinued Our church also did not progress as rapidly as we expected, But within the past month, our prospects have become more animating, The S School room of our new building, has been completed, We have taken posses, sion of it, and now worship there, This was a great grat, tification to us, to get even thus far in our undertaking, and have a room which we could use without fear of molestation This room will be very convenient for S School purposes, and serves admirably well for a place of worship. The S School has been recommenced, and is increasing in numbers,
We have been informed we may expect a visit from the Bishop about the 19th of next month, We are endeavouring to get the church ready for consecration by that time, and if nothing unforseen prevents, I do not doubt but that we shall succeed, It is allready in a good state of forwardness, The tablet was long ago put in its place, and now that the building has been plastered, it presents a very handsome appearance, It is considered very becoming, and appropriate, You are probably allready

aware that we have had a bell presented to us by John W Claghorn Esqr. of Grace Church Philada., It weighs 300 pounds, and has a very fine tone. It was lately raised to its place in the turret,. Of course there was a good deal of ringing, and I thought our little congregation was making more noise in the world than it ever did before. Last sunday we assembled together for worship for the first time at the ringing of our own bell, I have always thought that when the church was completed and we had taken possession of it, we should receive some accessions to our congregation. I have more reasons than ever to think so. A family connected with our church, of considerable wealth though without an enlightened interest in its concerns, has lately moved to within six miles of town. The countenance of such persons is often important to the outward being and secular interests of a parish. But we must not forget that our Lord does not need the countenance and support of the wealthy and influential in building up His Kingdom, though it is very certain He often makes use of them.

I have discovered a few more Episcopalians scattered through the country, but they reside at too great a distance to attend service regularly, or else have not the means of conveyance. We look forward with much pleasure to the coming of the Bishop, and shall endeavour to profit by his visit as much as possable, I trust there will be a few for confirmation, but I think

but a few, Our regular congregation has been very small
though we have often a respectable attendance by
reason of the coming in of others belonging to other
denominations, Circumstances may prevent
the attendance, at the right time, of three of those
I have thought would be confirmed,
I hope you will ~~infer~~ from the above that we are much
encouraged, God has prospered us far beyond our
deserts, perhaps beyond what we had a right to
expect. I know this will give you much pleasure.
Let us pray that God will pour out His spirit upon ~~us~~
all his servants here, and arouse within us a more
earnest concern for spiritual things, and dispose
us to strive more zealously to promote our own salvation
and that of those about us, My mind has been much
distracted by anxiety lest the building should not be ready
for consecration in time, As our builder has taken
work elsewhere, the superintending of the workman
engaged, has virtually devolved upon me.
We shall be very glad to have the use of the $250., as
soon as you can conveniently provide it. You can either
deposit it to the credit of A P Wilson Esqr in the
Western Bank Philada or else forward it to me, & I will a
you a receipt from him
It is impossible for me to say now what revenue may
be expected from the pews, or what course will be the
best to provide a salary for the minister, You must
not let that give you any anxiety, It may be desirable

to have this made a Miss.ⁿ Station if it can be effected as it is very doubtful whether the congregation, will be able, at first to provide a maintainance for their minister. I intend God willing, to make a visit home before the winter, and sometime after the Bishop has been here it will then probably be time enough to arrange this matter Commending the affairs of our parish to the regard and prayerful interests of your association, I remain dear madam with much respect

Your obliged friend and servant

Miss Ann F. Da Costa — Signed Geo. G. Field

Copies of Letters
addressed to
the secretary of the Ladies Missionary Association
of Christ Church Philad.a

Green Bay August 30th 1834

Respected Madam

The note of Nov. 4th last, with which you honoured me, reached this place on the 11th Inst. and my hands a few days ago. The box sent by the Female Missionary association of Christ Church, arrived in good order; and my sister, as acting Superintendent of the mission desires me to return the thanks of the children intended to be thereby benefitted, for this expression of interest in their behalf. I cordially unite with you in your earnest wishes for the prosperity of this institution. Since the departure of the Revd. Dr. Milnor and the Revd. Dr. Kemper, one female menominee child has died and another has been admitted. The whole number at present belonging to the mission is, I believe about seventy. Residing at Duck Creek, I am not so conversant with its condition, as I once was, but I think that, that condition is a prosperous one. The teachers deserve the praise of ability and diligence; and all acquainted personally with the mission, whose good opinion is of value acknowledge its usefulness.

With respect & truth

Miss Ann F. Da Costa — I remain
Secretary Fem: Miss'n. — Yours
Assoc'n. of Christ Church Signed Signed Rich.d F. Cadle
Philad.a

Miss Da Costa

Your very obliging note of the 14th. has been received, most truly do I thank you for your kindness to one who is a stranger to you – and who has therefore no special claims to your favour. I trust that I shall never forget the obligation – and I earnestly pray that He who has promised his blessing to those who give a cup of water to one of his disciples, may grant the abundance of his mercy to you and to all those kind christian friends who have aided you in your charitable work With sentiments of grateful regard I remain your Friend

Signed A H Cobb

Miss Ann F. Da Costa — Oct 14th 1844

Richmond July 15th 1846.

My Dear Friend

Your kind favor of the 7th was rec.d yesterday, having been absent attending our annual convention, when we elected the Rev.d Thomas Atkinson a second time to the Episcopate of this Diocese. Our choice was effected with great harmony of feeling, And on all subjects under discussion, there seemed to be a oneness of

purpose, — all speaking the same thing — all holding similar opinions. If Mr Atkinson accepts the offer he will find no disposition or inclination to ultraism.

Your very charitable letter teaches us that God hath not forgotten to be gracious. I had supposed that other calls upon your charities, were so much more urgent than ours that I concluded that you discharged your duty in appropriating your funds to objects more deserving. And I was ashamed to say anything more about it fearing that we had already asked and obtained more than our proportion.

I hope that you have not laboured in vain for us. We are in a prospering state. I was enabled to report to the convention; eight confirmed and eleven added to the communion since the last convention, in Oct. last. We have bought an organ at a cost of $125. and at a fair held on the fourth of July the Ladies obtained $160. for a bell. You may ask why not then pay your debt now $170.? The above named sums of money were gathered very much from those without the Church. We hope however to be able to collect enough from old unpaid subscription to pay the balance of the debt. We still worship in the Basement, intending to make no effort to finish the church untill we shall be able to do it properly. Please deposit, in the Bank of North America Philada the money to the credit of Branch at Richmond of the State Bank of Indiana

for my use and ask the Cashier to write acknowledging the deposit. This is the advice of the Cashier of this Bank. I baptized a Philada Quaker. S. R. Lippincott three sundays ago, and presented him and also his wife who was of Quaker parentage, for confirmation — making two communicants gathered up from that decaying sect, and embraced within the fold of Christ,

I mention this small beginning to encourage you and the very benevolent Ladies of your Society to hope that the Spirit of God accompanies your Charities.

With gratitude too deep for expression

I am now as ever Yours in Christ

Signed George. Fiske

Copies of Letters &c
addressed to
the secretary of the Ladies Missionary Association
of Christ Church Philada
and others
in reference to a Church to be erected
to the memory of
Bishop White

Circular
of the committee in behalf of the
Bishop White Chapel

That there is great need of a place for the worship of God on the Delaware front of Philadelphia, a little north of the limits of the city proper, is fully believed for the following reasons:-
1. There being no church within a reasonable distance of the position alluded to, interference with other parishes need not be apprehended,
2 A large population is there condensed within comparatively narrow limits, many families being frequently resident in a single house
3 Observation shows the prevalence of much depravity and moral degradation, and a constant desecration of the Sabbath
4 The greater portion of the population being in a destitute condition, and wholly unable to sustain suitable position

in other churches, too many abstain altogether from attending the regular services of the Church

5 A large number of English and Irish emigrants attached to the Episcopal Church, frequently locate themselves in this section of the city, and many of them being unwilling to intrude themselves in our churches rarely attend a place of public Worship

6 Besides the more stationary population alluded to, many mariners, remaining on shore for a short time, constitute a floating population holding the strongest claims upon all classes of the Christian community. Want of occupation on the Sabbath often leads too many of them into the haunts of vice and dissipation, from which a church provided for their accommodation would tend to withdraw them. Others who are religiously disposed and attached to the Church would there find a pleasant Sabbath-home.

It is therefore evident that church is demanded by the wants of this portion of the city: and it is further evident from the prevailing character of the population, that it must be wholly constructed and partly supported by the liberal contributions of a sympathizing community. In view of the above considerations it is proposed to erect a free church, near the Delaware front of the city of Philada, north of the limits of the city proper to be styled

The Bishop White Chapel

The reasons for adopting this name are as follows:—
The memory of the beloved Bishop White, will long be cherished in the hearts of Christians, and several attempts have been made to construct a monument to him in testimony of the love and esteem inspired by his lengthened and consistent course. A more appropriate remembrance of him cannot be devised than the construction of an edifice for the worship of God, which shall "open wide her gates to all." Doubtless, if he had desired a monumental remembrance of himself, none could have met his desires more fully than the object proposed. Let the objects which he cherished during life "be had in continual remembrance after his death.

Several sites for the Bishop White Chapel have been examined, and an estimate made of the whole cost of the ground and building which it is proposed to construct of Stone in the Gothic architectural style. It is estimated that $12.000. will render it free of all incumbrance.

The following gentlemen constitute the committee appointed for carrying out the object proposed in this Circular:—

	Parish		Parish
Wm G. Allen	St Peters	Jos. E. Hoover	Christ
Jas. C Booth	Christ	Rodney King	St Lukes Germant'n
Jas. Cassey	Grace	G. W Taylor	St Andrews
C.C. Cooper	Christ	Wm H. Wayne	Epiphany.

Saml Davis | St. Andrews | Contributing or Subscript-
Wm F. Griffiths | " James | ion will be received by any of
Francis West MD | Christ | the Committee —

These gentleman abandoned their plan and left it to the Ladies Missionary Association of Christ Church —

— Dear Sir

There were circumstances attending what was done in relation to "the Tabernacle" in fourth Street, which cannot in the most remote degree, apply to what I learn to be in contemplation, by some of the Ladies of Christ Church whose motives and feelings, Our Family cannot but highly appreciate

Yours very truly

— Doc: F. West. Signed Tho H White

April 12th 1845 —

Dear Sir

When I answer'd an Inquiry made through you, by some of the Ladies of Christ Church in regard to the name of a place of worship contemplated to be erected, I had not I am now convinced, reflected on the subject in all its aspects, An objection is I now find urged against the nameing of a Church after any Human Being, A divinely inspired apostle or early Saint only excepted, and that our church has always confined itself to these limits; in my communication to you nothing of this kind having been hinted, for it did not occur at the time, I cannot but feel my positions an embarassing

one, in now alluding to it, at the same time candour requires an acknowledgement on my part, that I now on reflection see in its full force the weight of the objections urged against the proposed measure and the unfortunate precedent that may be set by it, perhaps the Ladies concerned, will on further reflection view the subject in the same light that I now do at any rate I trust they will pardon me, respectfully recommending it to their serious consideration

Yours very Sincerely
Signed Theo
June 17th 1845

Dr. F. West

Being informed by my Daughter that Miss Da Costa has not seen the letter that I wrote to Dr. West in reference to the Church intended to be erected. I take the liberty of enclosing for her perusal and those concerned in the same undertaking with her a rough Copy of the same — the objection mentioned to Dr. West of considering it as a monument, came from a relative who had been applied too for a subscription — After the explanations made to my Daughter of the circumstances of the case I cannot object too their considering as a monument the objections to the naming it as first proposed. I still view in the same light

Very respectfully
Yours truly
Sigd. Thos. H. White

Miss Da Costa

June 24th 1845

Philadelphia October 9th 1845

Dear Madam

In reply to your kind note in relation to the Church which the Ladies of Christ Church propose building to the memory of Bishop White. I have only to regret that the pecuniary embarrassments of my own Church amount to nearly twice as much as the cost, of the proposed edifice and that I feel it my duty to concentrate the feelings and liberality of my congregation upon the work of liquidating our own debt. It seems to me that this should be our first duty and that the church is more benefited by paying for a place of worship already erected than by building a new one, Regretting then that our circumstances prevents us from acceding to your request. I remain

very respectfully

Yours

Signed E Neville

Right Rev, and Dear Sir Philada Oct. 1845

We hope you will not deem us forward in so early asking your attention to a subject in which we feel deeply interested, as on your favourable regard to, and action in the matter we build the strongest hope of its ultimate success. If you will have the goodness to read the accompanying circulars you will find that the ladies of Christ Church Philada, have proposed the

erection of a church where the gospel shall be freely preached to the poor, as a Monument to the Memory of Bishop White

When the plan was brought forward it was fondly hoped all the Episcopal churches in this city would unite cheerfully in the work, for all acknowledge the great destitution of the district in which it was proposed to build, and the suitableness of a free church as a Monument to Bishop White

But that unhappy spirit of party which has of late years, distracted this diocese, shewed itself even here, in a jealousy of the work being too much controlled by the three churches of which Bishop White was rector. Others objected on the ground of the difficulty that has been found in supporting the free church in Southwark under its present organization.

To meet both these classes of objectors; it has been proposed by some judicious men to form a city mission Society such as they have in New York. composed of all the clergy of the city with the Bishop at their head, that society has been of signal benefit to their city, it has three churches under its care, and through it labours, many souls have been won to Christ.

When a Parish in their Mission is destitute of a Pastor the Bishop of the Diocese nominates one to the Executive Committee and if they approve the nomination, they elect him to the vacant parish

If something like this society was begun in Philada. under your auspices it is believed it would have a most happy influence in uniting our churches, not only for the object we have in view, but that it might be as the precious oil which poured on Aaron's head ran down even to the skirts of his clothing.
Our friends have promised to speak to you about the City Mission on your return to Philada but our great anxiety to interest you in the business made us determined to write at once, believing that our appeal may be more forcible, if received by you at Huntingdon because we have laboured long to erect a church there, as a Monument to our beloved rector the Revd. J.W. James, and you are now there to consecrate the building so happily completed We have addressed you in perfect confidence that you entertain a deep respect for the memory of Bishop White as well as that you will do all that you can to give the gospel to the poor and needy of our suburbs among whom we desire to build this church, That the holy One may direct you in this and all your doings with his most gracious favour, is the desire and prayer of

Your sincere friends
Signed Ann T. Da Costa
Mary King

Wellsbro (Tioga Co), Nov. 5th 1845

Dear Ladies

I owe you many apologies for having so long delayed the acknowledgement of your kind favour received through the Revd Mr Field of Huntingdon. The truth is I have been so constantly occupied in, moving from place to place and in discharging imperative duties, that I am sadly in arrears to my correspondents. I snatch a moment, while preparing for the services of the day, to thank you for your letter and to say that I shall take great pleasure when I return to Philada in conferring with you on the interesting subject to which it relates. Cherishing the deepest veneration for the virtues and services of my honoured predecessor as well as the most grateful remembrance of his personal kindness I need hardly add that I shall always delight in doing honour to his memory

I am affec: and faithy
Yours
Signed H. Potter

Dear Sir

As I am informed by my clerk that you left the books from Miss Da Costa at my office, I take the liberty of returning them to you with the request to give the inclosed check to Miss Da Costa for Fifty Dollars. I have not signed the book, I place the money at

Miss Da Costa disposition, knowing she will make a right use of it. Unfortunately few things could have been more against some of my opinions, than the plan of what is called the Monument Church. Except for a moveable people like Mariners. I have no faith in free churches in our community, I have had experiance, and I do not believe that our people will take the right interest in a church, in which they have not influence and power as a congregation, Unless this Free church is intended to slide into a church of the usual description among us, I predict consequences from it, not exclusively good The connection of the name of Bishop White with it, while I venerate him more than any man living, is rather an obstacle than an inducement to subscribe to the book. I do not wish his name to be given to a church, that can be exposed to the vicissitudes of a free church such as I have known, I have written this note to explain to Miss Da Costa my motive for not subscribing to the Book. I give the money because I believe her motives to be excellent. Perhaps the suggestions I have made will do no harm

Truly yours

Dr West. Signed Hor: Binney

Philada Aug 8th /41

Boston January 19th 1841

Revd and Dear Brother

I have just now Recd your kind letter

of 15th and hasten to reply. I ought however before entering upon the matter of your letter to say that I performed the marriage on Thursday evening and preached all day yesterday Mr C not being present, I did not give notice of your lecture, thinking that you had made some other arrangements and finding no written notice I will attend to it however on Thursday evening.

In answer to the matter of your letter, I have to say that I feel deeply grateful for the interest, which your Bishop and Dr Dorr and others are pleased to take in me. The object as you know I had in view in visiting Philada a few weeks since was to enquire into the expediency of establishing a seamans Chapel there, I was led to the conclusion however, that the extent of the commerce of Philada and the preoccupancy of your Ground to some extent, would not warrant an effort, directed solely to the benefit of seaman. Since then however I had heard of the plan on which the Ladies of whom you spoke are interested, and through a friend, had learned that some interest had been expressed in me, in connection with it. I can only say, that my attention is as earnestly directed toward the Class spoken of, as ever, and any efforts, direct. indirect or partial in their behalf, would meet my cordial sympathy and service: if I mistake not the nature of the effort proposed, it has some reference to the cause of seaman, in connection with the poor, and should Providence permit. I should willingly identify myself with such a movement. My present position, is this I have been appointed to the Church at Worcester, to take charge at easter, or sooner,

should the present incumbent leave before that time, it will be necessary for me to give my answer to the appointment at the next meeting of the Board, which occurs on the first Tuesday - I think of next month. Until that time, I shall consider myself at liberty, to consider any proposal having reference to the particular objects named in your letter. I speak thus, because, I should feel that my duty lay first to the vacancy in this diocese, on any other ground. If you please you may say to the Ladies interested that I am not engaged at Worcester, and should a competent support be provided. I shall be glad to engage in the work. I am so situated at present that I should be unable to visit Philada. It would give me much pleasure, to meet Dr. Dorr and preach for him, and to facilitate any measures which my presence there would admit. My present engagements however will hardly allow me to visit Philada. I trust however that this may not interfere with any plans which the Ladies interested may have made. I shall not be accused of indelicacy, I trust, if I again remind you that it will be necessary for me to give an early answer to the call at Worcester; I hope to hear from you upon your return in relation to the plan and prospects of the proposed effort in Philada. With my kind and Respectful regard to Dr. Dorr and the assurances of my deep interest in the subject to the Ladies of whom you speak

Believe me dear Br. Truly and Resp

Your Servant and friend
Signed George C Wildes

Revd Jno Woart

Boston January 22nd 1846

My Dear Brother

I reached home safely at ½ nine last evening This morning I wrote Mr Wildes a note requesting him to call and see me. He is now in my study. He says that he sent me a letter on Monday of this week. In that letter Mr W. states that he has not yet determined to go to Worcester, but that he is expected to give in a decision to the Board of Missions, the first of next month. His inclinations induce him to think seriously of the plan of going to Philada. It is not convenient Mr W. states for him to make another visit to your city. He was recently there, and preached several times. Yet if it is considered absolutely necessary he would make an effort to do so. Mr W. would like to know whether the services of a Missionary would be required immediately. If not when. Whether services would be commenced in a hall &c. I write these particulars, as I may not have requested you to open Mr W.s letter If you have it when you get this, you can open it if you have not already done so, Mr W. would like to hear from you, if agreeable as soon as convenient

Affectionately your frd & br
Signed John Woart

Boston Feby 2^d

My Dr. Madam

I Rec^d. a communication from you through the Rev^d. Mr. Clark, on Saturday informing me of your choice of me as Minister of the proposed Mission to the poor in Philad^a. I had previously Rec^d. some information upon the matter through a letter from Mr. Wyatt and have stated to him my being on the matter for your information.

I feel Dr. Madam, that the proposed Mission is one calculated to enlist all my sympathies and labours and yet I must frankly confess that I cannot engage in the work with so limited means of support. I trust that I fully realise the duty of self denial in the ministry, and especially so in labouring among the destitute, still I am convinced that that would be no true self denial, which after all would oblige me to be dependent in a measure upon my friends. I should have remarked that accompanying your note, was one ~~from~~ Rev^d. Mr. Clark in which he informs me that Mr. Suddards and himself will each pledge $100. dollars in addition to the sum raised by you making the Salary $400 he further informs me that there is at present no prospect of increase upon this sum, at least through the direct agency of the Christ Church association. It must at once be evident that the salary offered

will not support a clergyman with family either at house keeping or otherwise, and moreover it must be plain that in order to be an efficient missionary to the class for whom this church is designed, one should be free from pecuniary cares, requiring attention at home. I feel that were a competent support provided (and by this I mean such as would simply free me from care of this kind) I should most willingly undertake the charge of this Mission. Under other circumstances, I should feel it my duty to decline your kind invitation. It is always an unpleasant thing Dr Madam to overshade the prospect of usefulness and the promptings of duty by pecuniary considerations, but I trust I shall be justified by you, when I say that were I to accept the charge offered me, under existing circumstances: it would be to the hindrance of my usefulness among the objects of your charity, and at an inconvenience to myself which my present circumstances would not warrant me to sustain. Be assured Dr Madam of my deep interest in your proposed work and accept my hearty desires that you may be prospered in all your undertakings, to the good of the church, and the Salvation of immortal Souls

I remain Dr Madam

Very Truly Yours

Miss Da Costa — Signed — George Dudley Wildes

Philada. Feb: 4th. 1844. Friday

My Dear Madam

In answer to your letter of yesterday's date, I have to say, that the idea I suggested respecting a city Mission, was that a society should first be raised having in view that special object, and having it under its care. The attempt to have what are called "free churches" I look upon as visionary. They never succeed well. They cannot support themselves: and they throw upon neighbouring congregations the severe burden of sustaining them. This answers for a while, but soon tires. accordingly, the free churches in N. York are considered failures, and are turning into regular self-supporting congregations. I have had some general conversation with the Bishop on the subject, but other matters more pressing in their nature, have occupied us all since his consecration. When he returns to the city I will introduce the matter again to his notice. It seems to me that, if you employ a Missionary, he ought to be appointed regularly by the ecclesiastical authority, which at least for Missionary purposes, is the committee on Missions of the advancement society. An appointment by a private, voluntary society or association of individuals, would neither cause him to be officially recognised as a Missionary, nor secure him the confidence and support which he ought to have, and since you have proposed the matter to me I would take the freedom to say, that I very much

fear that the sum you proposed (One thousand Dollars per annum, to give for a salary cannot be raised — With certainty and convenience certainly it cannot. It will have to be solicited every quater, and will soon be found to be out of the question. The churches are already burdened, and taxed in various ways, and many of them are already pledged to other plans, This is the case with my parish at least. So that it will be out of my power to pledged or promise the sum of $100. as you desire I think you must be mistaken in thinking that I promised to aid in the support of your Missionary; for knowing that I have no funds at my disposal for that object. I could not have done so, all I said was, that I would gladly do what I could, and you must remember how earnest I cautioned you against relying upon pledges from the city churches. They cannot do much, some of them, the greater part probably, will do nothing like engaging to give annually a fixed sum that may be depended upon St Andrews will no doubt, give what Mr Clark promises for Mr. Wildes, as that gentleman is to be his brother-in-law, but others will not feel the same interest, or be willing to make the same effort. I sincerely desire the success of your enterprise; and hoping that you may be guided into the best and most efficient way to secure its prosperity. I am Dear Madam

Very respectfully your friend & Se

(Signed) H. W. Ducachet

P.S. as every thing depends upon the fitness and efficiency of the minister who is to officiate at the chapel, great care should be taken to obtain a gentleman of known qualifications, good preaching abilities, and of ripe experience in pastoral duties if possible. If the minister should happen not to be the right sort of a man, the whole plan will fall through. The best way will be for the Ladies to leave the appointment to the committee on Missions, with the Bishop at its head. It will be a great responsibility for the Ladies to undertake to select the Missionary: Indeed you must permit me to say, that I hope they will never take this upon themselves, when the church has provided a proper authority for such cases. and it is to be earnestly desired that they will avoid entangling themselves, by leaguing the enterprise with any cliques, or parties in the church. If it is to succeed, it must be no party thing, and the minister must be no party man. What kind of a person he ought to be otherwise, I must leave to my superiors to determine.

A.W. C.

Feb: 23rd/46.

Revd. Dr. Dorr

Dear Sir

I perceive from the annual report of the "Ladies Association of Christ Church," that it proposes founding a new congregation & church to the memory of the late Reverend Bishop White, and that a commencement

would be made as soon as a suitable missionary could be obtained—

Now perhaps, I am outstepping the bound of due humility—, but I feel some persuaision that I should meet the views of yourself and of the association, in that enterprise. There would in that situation be required something of the experience of middle age, and of worldly as well as christain prudence.

A facility of address, and aptness to teach externally, would be called into requisition as much as in the more formal exercises of the pulpit—

The congregation must be sought out, visited and instructed from house to house and rooted and grounded in the doctrines usages, and ordinances of the gospel and the church in Sunday School and evening, weekly lecture orally and especially the catechism and baptismal office. How far it is true, my ability for such an undertaking may extend it is not for me to say, but if desired I could furnish the means of your knowing. As to my sentiments may I be permitted to remark that I am fully prepared to carry out the principals and practice of our church as they are laid down by Bishop White in his "commentary on the duties of the public ministry".—

And now before we build the tower let us count the cost.—

To maintain a Missionary and family in a plain

and economical manner, would require (under
correction) $800. or $900. per annum.
I propose the advancement Society should give
allowing my transfer from hence $ 150.
The Ladies Association 350
And I will meet the above with 350
provided the Church shall be for the poor $ 850
and always free — and that when the edifice is built and
paid for, my modicum shall be withdrawn and replaced by
contributions from Christ Church or elsewhere. By drawing
annually so small a sum from the association, the ladies
might sooner build, and having the prospect of seeing it
completed in a comparatively short time, they would be induced
to make vigorous exertions. And as for the certainty of the
income not failing — and of their not being exposed to the an-
noyance about salary &c — allow me to say first that the
Advancement Society pay by Bankers check quarterly
and that 2'ndly the aid brought by me, is also paid by check
in New York invariably semiannually from fixed private
means so that the Missionary aid might be forthcoming
at alternate semiannual payments — so much for clearing
the way — should this proposition at all meet with your
approval, then please lay the matter before our Bishop —
and with whatever disposition he may advise of the
subject as far as I am concerned. I shall be perfectly
satisfied — and will cordially acquiesce I am. Dear Sir Your
Waterford Erie Co. Pa. obedient servant and friend, Tobia H Mitchel
Signed

My Dear Miss Da Costa

Instead of doing as you requested in your note of 17th rec^d last evening I send herewith a sketch of what I suppose you want, which you may adopt, amend or reject, as may seem best after reflection. I also give you a list of names, such as I could call up during the time I could give the subject this evening. I by no means suppose that all of them will contribute to the full extent of your wishes, or that by many, a denial may not be the only fruit of your application. But it is highly probable that something considerable may be obtained, particularly if the best mode of approaching them be adopted, which you will have to make the subject of some consideration, taking particular care if possable that no call shall be made before the individual shall be to some extent familiar with the object, and that by your agency thus, the most favorable medium. There will be no difficulty in swelling the list of names, and I shall indeavour before long to make you a further contribution in this way. With regard to confining the subscriptions to one sum, it will be well to do so as much as possable, but by no means, to loose any donation, whatever may be its size and for this object. I would suggest a second or perhaps a third book. In this however as well as in all other respects your judgment will be the best guide, I am well satisfied that within the time contemplated by you (5 years) you will have completed your enterprise, if you do not let the innumerable

difficulties which must be encountered dampen your ardor and that many will have cause to thank you for the results of your zealous efforts in this most holy cause

Truly Yours

(Signed Jno. Welsh Jr.

April 20/46

A Potter regrets that he has not the pleasure of meeting Miss Da Costa and Mrs. King. A note which he has addressed already to Miss Da Costa will satisfy her that he acquiesces cheerfully with the election of Mr. Smith — and in conformity with her suggestions an appointment will be transmitted to him.

A P regrets that unavoidable absence for the next four weeks will probably prevent his being at your opening service — to assist in which would give him much pleasure.

My Dear Miss Da Costa

I am desirous of learning from you whether the views of the Ladies of the Bishop White Chapel in respect to the Revd. J Hicks Smith have been matured. My only reason for inquiry is, that if they have concluded not to make overtures to him, I shall be glad to find employment for him elsewhere.

Very Respectfully

Yours

Philada. July 20th. 1846 — (Signed Alonzo Potter

My Dear Caroline

I enclose $5 from my Mother and $5 from myself, which I beg you will add to the fund for your monumental Church, as a humble expression of the deep debt of gratitude, which we among thousands, owe to our late revered Diocesan Bishop White

Believe me very
truly yours
Burlington Sept. 22nd (Signed) Elizabeth Mifflin
My sister desires me to enclose $1.00 from her—

Dear Sir July 1846

I send you a note I received yesterday from Bishop Potter, appointing you as Missionary for the free church which it is proposed to build in the Northern Liberties as a monument to Bishop White
It gives me great pleasure to be the medium of this communication as I trust you will be a faithful labourer in this district.
The Ladies Missionary Association of Christ Church wish to engage your services for one year, at four hundred dollars a year payable quarterly, or any other way you prefer
The people among whom you are called to labour, are many of them at as great a moral distance from the gospel as if they had been born in a heathen land. But if its healthful influences are brought home to them, "this wilderness may blossom as the rose" We hope it is not out of place to say to you that

we desire of our Missionary, a scrupulous observance of the worship of the church to which we belong, while he preaches fully and plainly the great truth that "we are accounted righteous before God, only for the Merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by faith"; and not for our own works or deserving". That the blessings of God may rest upon your work. We trust your prayers will continually ascend with ours. that the result may be the glory of Christ in the Salvation of sinners

Ann T. Da Costa Secretary of the L. M. S

Philada. Feast of St James, 1846

Ladies,

On wednesday I had the happiness to receive through your secretary Miss Ann Da Costa Notice that you wished to engage my services for one year as Missionary to the Church for the Poor, designed to be erected in the Northern Liberties as a monument to Bishop White, Together with your note was one from Bishop Potter appointing me to the station to which you had chosen me

After reflection I beg leave to reply as follows. To your call to this post, I respond with mingled feelings of pleasure and apprehension:- pleasure at this assurance of your confidence, and in the ample field which is thus opened for my being engaged in the glorious labour of winning souls to christ: apprehension at the importance and magnitude of the work, and the comparative inexperience which I bring to master it.

In entering upon the duties to which you have called me
I do not forget that I may have need of much forbearance
on your part; and I earnestly hope and fully believe that
your prayers will not be wanting in our behalf.
Whilst truly desirous to labour for the glory of my Master
Jesus, and confident that this field will, by God's blessing
on your efforts, be fruitfull as it is interesting: I still recollect
that the ground is yet new and untried.
God's blessing on the enterprise may be with held. Your
Missionary's want of experience in the peculiar duties
of such a charge, or his general insufficiency for such
a work, may for a time retard success_ Measures
which at first promise to be useful, may on trial
need to be changed, and thus delay be occasioned.
In view of these and similar possabilities, forbearance
may need to be exercised by you, and expectations
of immediate result may be disappointed.
In thus setting forth these causes of possable failure,
I trust that you will find no reason to suppose that
either zeal or laborious exertions on my part, shall
be wanting in this noble work. this truly Christain scheme
No, to Jesus my Master, my time and all my energies
have been consecrated _ to do his work, to bring sin laden
souls to His rest, to gather rebellious souls into His
Kingdom must ever be my object wherever it may
please Him to appoint me to serve
But I mention these things, because it is possable that

I may fail in proving that this is the place of His appointment for me; and I would be distressed if my insufficiency should in the least restrain your ardour in this worthy work of Christian Charity; and it is these considerations which have made me accept with diffidence, your call.
The novelty and the difficulties of this sphere of labour will, I trust, be a sufficient apology for the apparent egotism of this communication
Permit me to say a word in reference to the latter part of your letter of invitation.
The people designed to be blessed by your charitable work will of course need to be taught the very elements of religion, the first principles of the Doctrine of Christ.
Whilst endeavouring to this with all plainness, it will ever be my aim, strictly to maintain the worship and order of the Church: and distinctly to proclaim her holy Doctrines, amongst the very front of which, must always stand the comfortable truth. That the atonement made by our God and Saviour is the only meritorious cause of our justification, and that Faith is the only hand by which we can receive the blessings of salvation thus offered for our acceptance
Trusting that in all my efforts to benefit this people, I shall be helped by your prayers

I am most truly your
Servant in Christ
Signed Jos. H. Smith Jr.

To the Ladies Missionary Association
of Christ Church. Phila.

Decem

My Dear Friend

I can not easily describe the reluctance with which I undertake the duties to which you have so generously invited me, and to which the Bishop has appointed me.

The field is so new, the effort so confessedly an experiment my own experience in the duties of the holy Ministry is of so short duration and so limited in extent, and the difficulties which must ever attend such an effort even under the most favorable circumstances, so manifold and so apparent, that I hesitated much before I could assent to the appointment,

As however the invitation is for one year only, it can be proved within that time whether it is the field to which I am fitted and designed by my Master

Permit me to beg you as I have mentioned in my communication to the Ladies Association, not to have too sanguine expectations of speedy results; these people have been too long neglected to expect that they will at once be moved to attempt anything in the way of reformation. Let us always bear in mind too, that in a very especial manner. "Our help is in the Name of the Lord" only, If our prayers be constant and fervent, we may hope for His blessing or at least His direction into a better plan. As for myself. I can only say that I shall take every opportunity of seeking from the experience of others who have laboured in such fields information and assistance in enabling us to carry

on the work.

Truly your friend
(Signed, Joseph H Smith Jr.

To Miss Ann Da. Costa 25th July 1846.
Philad^a

Continuation of Letters from Huntingdon—

Huntingdon May 4th. 1847

My Dear Madam

You may perhaps think it strange that I should address you by letter when I may hope soon if nothing unforseen prevents, to see you in the city. My reasons for doing so is this. I take it for granted that the members of your association, although their sympathies are more particularly enlisted in another undertaking, and their benificence is directed into another channel: still entertain a lively interest in the welfare of this parish. I thought therefore a short statement respecting its condition would not be unacceptable to them. And this seems to be a suitable opportunity for offering such a statement, as it is about the time when it is made my duty to meet the Bishop; the chief Pastor of us all, and give him a report of the parish. I shall report to the Bishop this year, families 17: adults 35; children 38; present number of communicants 20; Sunday school teachers 6: scholars 20: infant baptism 2. Some of these figures must be received with this qualification, that they include several persons who live out of town, and who are not ordinarily present at divine service. I do not commonly expect more than fourteen at the Communion. There were but three communicants when we first commenced our efforts to serve this parish and one of them has since left this vicinity During my residence here there have been several accession

to the congregation, and also to the number of communicants, by families moving into the town or neighborhood. Although we are still but few in number, yet if all could be collected together from town and country, which does not often happen, we should have quite a little congregation of our own. But our own number is generally, once a day, at least, largely increased by the presence of strangers. Last Easter Morning I think the congregation was larger than upon any previous occasion. Very few of those who were formerly ranked among the Episcopalians of this place have joined us. I am constrained to think they never were very intelligent or strongly attached Churchmen. Some who were of an opposite character, have removed from town, or are now deceased. During the long interval that the people were without pastoral supervision new connections were formed which still retain them. In a small place like this, where the actions of all are closely observed and remarked upon and where the worldly interests of many are much affected by their religious associations: it requires considerable firmness and moral courage, or else a self denying spirit, to change those associations. In the month of Feb: I had a short series of religious services, which I think were not without profit. Rev. Messrs Hatt and Hester of Bellefonte and Lewistown were with me. I also assisted them in their parishes in service of a like character. I officiated for the first time this past winter in Birmingham — a small town fifteen miles distant from Huntingdon. Service was held in the Methodist Meeting house; the congregation was quite respectable as to numbers

The night was unpleasant, and my coming was unexpected or else I am led to believe the congregation would have been a larger one. I was invited to come again and spend the Sunday there. It was probable the first time the service of our Church had been held there. In March I officiated at Water Street, nine miles west of us, where I had been for a like purpose there twice before. Many years ago the Episcopal clergyman, residing in Huntingdon preached there statedly. I expect to spend a Sunday there sometime in the summer. One of my vestrymen with his family resides there, and there are several others who think favourably of our Church. I will endeavour to persuade the Bishop to include that place in his appointments for this summer, as I am quite sure it would give general satisfaction to the people to see him there. In January we raised $100. to pay off a debt upon the Church. Most of it was contributed by persons not of the congregation. I likewise received $100 from Mr. John H. Shoenberger of Pittsburg for the same purpose. The Sunday School is not so large, as I would like to see it. The communicants generally, I think, are exemplary in their manner of living and there is in others of the congregation I trust an increased respect for religious and serious thoughtfulness. I have noted with great pleasure the marks of your progress in carrying forward the design of Bishop White Chapel. The object is so doubly excellent — to open another Chapel where all may freely enter to offer up the Sacrifices

of prayer and praise to our common Father in heaven, and to perpetuate the memory of that good man whom God raised up in troublous times to guide our infant Church: that it ought to commend itself to the approbation and active benevolence of every Churchman.

So good a cause, with such efficient friends and supporters as this is known to have, must command success.

Assure the ladies of your association of my grateful recollections of their past kindness to the parish under my charge. Remember me to Rev Mr. Smith, and be good enough to say to him, that I expect. God willing to be in the city next week, and will be happy to serve him in any way I can. With respectful compliments to the ladies of the family I remain dear Madam

very truly

Your friend and Servant

(signed) Geo. G. Field

Miss Ann. T. Da Costa.

Huntingdon July 14th 1847

My Dear Madam

We have lately had a very pleasant visit from the Bishop. a brief account of which will probably not be without interest to you. He came here in company with Rev: Mr. Hiester of Lewistown, Thursday July 1st. Rev: Mr. Watt of Bellefonte was also with us. The Bishop preached the night he arrived

to a large and attentive congregation. The next morning I read prayers and baptized a child brought from Hollidaysburg for the purpose. The Bishop preached an admirable sermon upon parental responsability, which was listened to with universal satisfaction. He then confirmed six persons, addressing them in a very appropriate and solemn manner. In the afternoon I drove him to Water Street, leaving Mr. Hiesler to conduct public service in Huntingdon at night. The congregation at Water Street was a very respectable one as to numbers. I baptised the child of one of my parishioners residing there. The Bishop preached, or talked, as he called it, for an hour in a very interesting and profitable manner. We returned after service reaching Huntingdon a little after midnight. He and Mr. Hiesler left for Lewistown at an early hour. Our church was never so full as during the late ministrations of the Bishop. He left a most favourable impression upon the community. His dignified and affable manners, his earnest and impressive discourses from the pulpit, seemed to win the respect and admiration of all. Last week upon tuesday, at the invitation of the bishop I went to Bellefonte to attend convocation. Services were commenced that evening and continued through the two following days. There were eight clergymen in attendance besides the chief Pastor. Such a gathering was never known before in central Penn.a I hope it was the beginning of a new era in the history of our church in this part of the diocese. My parish was included within the bounds of the convocation. These meetings of convocation are to be quarterly, held in rotation in the different parishes included within its limits

I hope they will be greatly beneficial in promoting the end contemplated the improvement of the clergy in matters pertaining to their sacred office; and the cultivation of a spirit of sympathy, and a friendly intercourse between our parishes which have been so long stood isolated and independent, and the promotion of Missionary enterprise among us leading to church extension. Three points have been designated at which to commence immediately Missionary operations as soon as the Bishop can secure the services of a clergyman.

Remember me very kindly to my friend the Rev. Mr. Smith Assure him of my unfeigned sympathy with him, in that late afflictive dispensation which has overtaken his family.

With kind regard to the ladies of the family, I remain dear Madam

Very truly

Your friend and Servant

(signed) Geo. G. Field

Miss Ann Da Costa

Continuation of Letters relating to Calvary Church

Burlington (Iowa) August 18th 1847

My Dear Madam

Yours of July 5th and 10th ult. were received in due course of the mail. Ill, health and debility consequent on the excessive heat of the season: have hitherto prevented me from writing For this reason I must beg you to excuse my seeming neglect. I now have great pleasure in informing you, that the box of fancy articles, of which you make mention, has safely arrived, free from all injury by the way. I implore you respected madam, and the ladies of your benevolent association, to accept my own most heart. felt thanks, and those of our ladies and congregation, for this your labour of love and welcome gift of charity, for the promotion of human wellfare and advancement of Christ's kingdom. Be assured, our devout and fervent prayer shall ever be for your peace and prosperity. May the Lord lift on you the light of his countenance, and render effectual all your efforts for the extension of his kingdom, and for the enhancement of his honour and glory. The Lord hear you in the day of trouble. The name of the God of Jacob defend you. Send you help from the sanctuary, and strenthen you out of Zion. Remember all your offerings, and accept your sacrifice. Grant you according to your heart and fulfill all your counsil. As the season is so far advanced, our ladies think it not expedient to attempt a sale of the articles before fall, or the beginning of winter, when they will have others of their own manufacture. We will then inform you of the result; and I hope then to be able to transmit a small offering to aid you in your efforts in the city

Our church is in progress. I hope, we may be able to occupy it by winter, although it will not be ready for consecration before spring. It is in a beautiful situation, Its dimensions are 30 feet by 60 feet with a tower; and exclusive of the lot, will cost about $3000.

I regret exceedingly to hear of the discouragements and embarrassments which you and your benevolent association of Ladies experience in your noble effort to erect a free church in Philadelphia, as a befitting memorial of esteem and affection to your late Diocesan, the pure the wise, the devoted, the sainted Bishop White. Can it be, that the glowing, the inspiring associations, which once spontaneously sprung into active life in so many hearts at the name of that great and holy man, have so soon become extinct! Have they become despoiled of controlling power by the wretched war of words; or have they become crushed and withered in the hearts of men, by the wasting lusts of gain? Alas: that the God of this world should ever be permitted successfully to arrogate to himself the devotion and obedience, due only to God our Creator

I would fain hope, that there is yet power in the impulses of sympathy, and in the persuasive call of duty to insure the requisite means to raise high and fair, and to render benefitting and enduring this contemplated and appropriate memento of departed worth. It would indeed seem, that every Churchman in the country should feel a stirring interest in this benevolent enterprise, and cheerfully present his offering for its successful accomplishment, as well from respect to the dead, as from love and good will to the living. For myself I cannot but feel a lively interest in this and every similar enterprise at the east on account of its destined influence on the cause of true religion in the west. Your object is to bring the poor

the hitherto neglected, the ignorant classes, which constitute no small portion of the population of all large towns, under the renovating, purifying, saving influence of Christ's holy religion. It is not unknown to you, that thousands and ten thousands of those classes of people are every year pouring into the great valley of Mississippi, the mighty and welcome recepticle of the poor the ignorant, the out cast of all nations. It is saddening alike to the christian, the philanthropist and patriot to contemplate this moving and restless mass of human beings, as embodied elements of disastrous woes to this the fairest portion of creation. May the spirit of the Lord raise up a standard against overpowering iniquities. Often - too often the wide and long protracted, and rushing streams of emigration, pouring over the mountains at the east, rushing downward from the great Lake, forcing their restless tide up our rivers, too often are they seen to combine, over and above much, that is good or desirable, a revolting mass of besotted ignorance, and abhorrent pollution, whose influences is destined to become a fearful, moral paralysis, and whose onward progress is likely to be the progression of debasing bigotry, of withering infidelity, of brutalized passions, of un-controlled waywardness and unredeemed iniquity.

How momentous the interest, which those facts impart to your high and holy enterprise: I would, the dismal mass of sin: pouring over this fair valley, could arouse the people of God to benefitting efforts, to arrest these course of perdition. We, have in the west, cannot but feel the deepest interest in any efforts to impart, instruction and the blessings of pure religion to the ignorant, the poor and long neglected class of the large towns and cities of the east. Most fervently

do we pray for your success. Most earnestly would we plead for your behalf knowing, that thereby we are contributing much to promote the prosperity and glory of Christ's Kingdom in this destitute portion of our country. Most urgently would we plead, that this may be but the first development of an exalted and holy purpose, to preach the gospel effectually to every individual in all the towns and cities and states of the east, so that we may soon enjoy the exalted happiness to hail every immigrant, as a brother in Christ, a coworker in the vineyard of the Lord, diffusing around him the benign influence of the fair virtues and enduring graces of a pure and holy character.

Pray, excuse my tedious length. And if any portion of this hasty scrawl can enhance the interests of enterprise, they are freely at your service, only suppressing my name

Yours in the fellowship of the gospel
S Batchelder.

Letter of Miss Ann. Da Costa, Secretary of the Ladies' Missionary Association of Christ church, addressed to Horace Binney Sr Esq.

Phila^da. March 17th 1860.

Dear Sir

We hope you will forgive the liberty we take in soliciting your opinion on a question, which is deemed important by the Ladies' Missionary Association of Christ church. They have collected funds and built Calvary Church, in the Northern Liberties, as a Monument to Bp. White. The church is finished, and not a dollar of debt exists, either on the building or ground; they have also built a School-house and Sexton's house on part of the ground, which is, also, free from debt, except about two hundred dollars, which will soon be paid from the rent of the Store under the School-house, so that the whole property may be said to be free from all incumbrance.

The Deeds for the whole are in the name of the Ladies' Missionary Association, who desire now to pass them into the hands of the Vestry of Calvary church.

The question we wish you to answer, is, whether, in making a Deed of gift to the Vestry of Calvary church, we have the right to make conditions.

The great difficulty in a church with free seats is the privilege of voting; the charter of Calvary church simply says, The Vestry shall fix the conditions of

voting, and they have made a Bye-law, which makes th
sum of one dollar a year and attendance at the
church for six months the only conditions.
To us these seem to throw the matter into the hands
of any man who will pay 50 dollars and he may
buy all the votes necessary to decide an election.
Now, may we say in our Deed of gift that the
privilege of voting shall be confined to such male
members of the church as have attended regularly
for three years and have paid to the church-war
five dollars per annum?
And further, as it is built as a Monument to
Bishop White, may we say no alteration sha
be made in the exterior of the church, nor chang
of the Tablet to his Memory on the wall within,
but with the consent of the State Convention,
proposed at one Meeting of the Convention and n
acted on until the next year?
In giving answers to these questions you will confe
a great favour on the Ladies' Missionary Associati
but particularly on one of them who regards your
opinions with deep veneration and yourself (if she m
be allowed to say it) with true affection and respec

(Signed) Ann. T. Da Costa

Secretary of Ladies
Missionary Association of Christ

P.S. Having been for months confined to my bed by sick
must be an apology for any inaccuracies in this letter.

A. T

Reply of Horace Binney Sr. Esq to the fore-going Letter of Miss Da Costa.

245 South Fourth St
3d April 1860.

Dear Madam,

Mrs King handed to me yesterday afternoon your note of 17th of March; and I must send my reply to the address and care of Mrs Hover, whose residence is given in the pamphlet which accompanied the note, because unfortunately neither your note, nor my Directory, gives the Street and number of your own residence.

For several years past, I have abstained from giving a professional opinion to any body upon any ~~subject~~ question, whatever; and, therefore, you will not receive my remarks as given or made in that character. But it may aid you in your resort to professional aid for the better attainment of your object, if I express the inclination of my mind generally upon the subject of your note, and therefore I reply as follows;

If the Charter of Calvary church says that "the Vestry shall fix the conditions of voting" – it seems difficult to perceive how you can transfer the property to that body under conditions in regard to voting, that are contrary to what the Charter directs. Their charter of incorporation must be their

rule; and if you limit or qualify your gift by conditions which conflict with the powers of the Vestry - there must be an incongruity in the gift. - All your views as to the rules of voting seem reasonable, in view of the difficulty to which you refer, and if you wish to avoid the incongruity I have mentioned, the best course, I think would be to see that the Charter of Calvary church should be amended, so as to prescribe the very conditions of voting, which the Ladies' Missionary Association of Christ church think expedient, before the transfer is made. There is no general provision in law, I think, that makes this impracticable, and when the alteration shall be made, the Ladies. M. Association may then insert in their deed, that the transfer is made upon the express condition in regard to voting, contained in the amended Charter and that if any change shall be made in the Charter by future amendment, or by-law, in contradiction or variation of the rule prescribed by the proposed amendment, the gift shall revert to and be resumed entirely by the Ladies Missionary Association.
No other course occurs to me for attaining your object with full effect; though, as I do not possess a copy of the charter of the Association, or of Calvary Church, I do not speak with certainty.
I am sorry to learn that your health is so

seriously disturbed and am obliged by your kind expressions in regard to myself,

Very respectfully yours

(Signed) Hor: Binney

P.S. I think your Deed of transfer may say that no alteration shall be made in the exterior of Calvary church, or the place of the Tablet, without the previous consent of the Ladies' Missionary Association of Christ church; and that, if it is made, the Missionary Association may, by their Attorney lawfully enter and or enter as of their former estate and repossess and redispose of the Estate. Your Association cannot reserve this right to the Convention; and it would be inconveniently vested in that body, even if lawfully done.

Addressed to

Miss Ann T. Da Costa

Secretary of Ladies' Missionary Association of Christ church

to the Care of

Mrs Joseph E. Hover Treasurer

No 416 Race St.

Huntingdon March. 5th 1844.

My Dear Madam

I regret that circumstances prevented my sending you a letter in time for the purpose you mentioned, as I intended to do. I was absent in the latter part of the month on a visit to the Rev. Mr Bonner, and remaining away a little longer than I at first expected, did not get back in time to fulfil my intention.

I am rather surprised that you seem discouraged by what I told you in my last letter, not that there was any thing very promising in the statement I made, but because I thought you were prepared to hear of nothing but spiritual desolation so far as this parish was concerned. I fear there will not be much in this letter to enliven you. but remember you promised when I was about to leave you last fall. that you would not expect much and so would be kept from a disappointment. There has been no material change in our affairs since I last wrote. The attendance upon our services is about the same, and if there are no evidences of increased interest in them on the part of the congregation or others, I think there are none of diminished interest We are often indebted to our Presbyterian neighbours for swelling our numbers, at such times as their minister is absent. They will soon be no better off than ourselves, as respects church accomodation. They worshipped in their old meeting house for the last time last Sunday. and will now be compelled to use untill next fall what is called the seceders church

a building) more rude in appearance than our own and I believe less convenient. They intend to put up a new edifice immediately, probably upon the site of the old one. but a larger, handsomer and more extensive building. As you may easily conceive, this will probably have some influence upon our own prospects whether favorably or not, I cannot now tell. I am very anxious that we should come under some more systematic organization. I often feel the disadvantages of our present situation, having no vestry, or responsible officers. As the time is drawing near for the election of a vestry, we have taken measures to procure from Harrisburg a new copy of the charter. I am not sure yet where the persons to form the vestry are to be found. all the male members of the congregation will be required. Two respectable gentlemen residing at Water Street, 7 miles distant, who considered themselves members of this parish, are about to remove to the West. Altho' so far off they cannot come to our services very conveniently, yet their names merely would give us strength. Five miles below, there is an intelligent and pious young man, lately from Ireland, sick with the consumption, who if he had health, would be able to assist me very much. If he has sufficient strength, he will embark for his native country as soon as the weather permits. I regret his loss very much. I was much pleased with a visit I made him. He appeared to have a strong and intelligent attachment to the church and gave ~~me~~ evidence of unaffected piety, and in the

resignation to the will of God. There is a family about to remove to this town to reside from the city, members of one of the city parishes, and communicants of the Church, the name is Clements. The Trustees of the building we occupy are refitting it so that it has quite a respectable appearance. I trust the Bishop will not omit us in his appointments for confirmation, and very sincerely hope I may be able to present to him more than one for the reception of that rite. My class in the catechism at first consisted only of five, and there were but two of those whose attendance could be depended upon. You will doubtless be surprised at the smallness of the number. Of the very few entire families which compose the congregation, there is but one in which there is a child old enough to be catechised, and of the parts of families, the children are chiefly connected with the Presb. school. The rigour of the winter, and distance from town prevented some, who I think would otherwise have come. As the spring has now opened, I intend to make a more vigorous effort to collect a Sunday School or catechetical class. Should I succeed I shall probably ask your aid in procuring some Books. I have made such a disposition of the reports as you wished. Some were surprised at the smallness of the sum, in your hands. The amount has been much magnified or rather it has been confounded with another sum of money, said to be in the charge of Mr. Binney of Philada for the use of this parish. Whether this is true or not that Mr. B— has such a sum, Gov. or you, you will know better than myself. At any rate it is hardly worth while to discuss that matter at

present. Want of money, is not at present our difficulty.

I heartily agree with you, that the reproach, you speak of, which has so often been cast upon our church, ought to be silenced. There is no class to whom I would more cheerfully minister to, or whom I would more cordially welcome to our services than the poor. I have continually inquired for such of them as are not connected with any religious Society of the place, and have reason to think they are not many. Remember the Methodists and Baptists have been here before me. They have canvassed the town, and offer the same privilege that I do. The poorer class with very few exceptions have their predilections, and call themselves by some name or other. In these country towns at least. I'll speak for this one. I do not think there are any so exceedingly poor that freedom from pew rent would be an inducement to give up their preferences. You must look for such among the suffering, wretched poor of the city, a class unknown to this place.
So far as I can learn they, who do not belong to any denomination are not of the poor but of a more conspicuous class.
Do not be discouraged yet about our success here. You ought not to be, if I am not. I might find it difficult to say why I am not, the reasons would probably appear trifling upon paper. Rather let us trust and pray, that, with the Divine blessing, we yet may see be able to build up this decayed parish, bringing glory to God and Salvation to men. Pray let me hear from you soon again; and I hope when I write next, I may be able to give you some more definite and satisfactory information than I have yet done. With sincere regards and best wishes to Mr. Newbold

and respectful compliments to the ladies, I remain, dear Madam with much respect,

Your friend and servant
Geo. G. Field

Miss Ann. J. McCosta
With respect to the salary, allow me to suggest, that you have antedated the termination of the 1st quarter. I did not reach here untill the 18th. October 1843.

Huntingdon April 16th. 1844

My Dear Madam

Having a good opportunity, I send you a few hasty lines. I hope to have heard from you before this. I trust I may say that our congregation is in no less a flourishing condition than when I last wrote ~~you~~ Notwithstanding our great unworthiness. the blessing of God seems to rest upon us. There have been a few additions to the congregation lately. I have started anew the class of children for religious instruction, and tho' the number is yet small, I think it soon will be increased, I have written to the city for some S. School books. If we had some books suitable for a Sunday School library it would be a great advantage. Could you procure for us another donation of small prayer Books? I hope to be in the city before long. and perhaps it will be time enough then to attend to procuring the P. Books. I mentioned in my last. that the Presb. congregation here were about to provide themselves with a new place of worship. Their contractor

a member of the Epis: church at Bellefonte, proposes to refit the Old Presb: meeting house, and prepare it for an Epis church, upon reasonable terms. We have thought very seriously about the matter, but have not yet made any definite agreement. We are waiting for him to submit his plan and estimate of cost. In the meantime the sum of $1200. has been subscribed, which I doubt not can be considerably enlarged. I mentioned in my last, that it was the opinion here there was the sum of $100. in the keeping of Mr. Horace Binney Jun for the assistance of the church in this place. As it is desireable to know very soon what amount of money can be depended on, and not hearing from you, I thought it better to write at once to Mr. B., which I have done this morning. You once thought your fund could be increased to its original amount; do you still think so? I have not particularized much in this letter, partly because I write in haste, and partly because I hope if God permits to see you before a very great while. I pray that God will give us a right judgment in all things, that nothing may be done precipitately, or unadvisedly, but that all may tend to the promotion of his glory and the salvation of men. Do not forget our congregation in your prayers, and with the continuance of the Divine blessing, our wishes may be realized. Kind remembrances to Mr. Newbold and family and the ladies, and with much respect I remain

Yours very respectfully

Miss Ann T. Da Costa. (Signed) Geo. G. Field

Huntingdon Oct. 5th. 1846

My Dear Madam

As one of our wardens Mr. Thomas Reed is going to the city upon business, I have requested him to call upon you. thinking you would probably be glad to see him.

I have been expecting all the summer past, and still hope to be in the city sometime this fall to spend a few days. I will endeavour when there to make as well on my own part as on the part of the congregation acknowledgements for the last instance we had of your kindness and liberality towards us. There was a part of your last letter gave me considerable uneasiness. I trust I I shall be able when I see you to satisfy you that your suspicions were ill grounded. This I can do better at a personal interview, than by letter. I am hoping we shall have a visit from the Bishop who is now to the west of us, though he has yet made no appointment here. I wrote to him last week, asking him not to pass us by. There are four persons, new communicants, who ought to be confirmed. Our parish is I think slowly gaining ground. The afternoon congregation is as large as ever. and the morning more numerous. The Sunday School is fluctuating. If all had remained who have joined it it would be full to overflowing. But it is the practice with a good many who enter. being under no strict parental discipline. to leave when they find they cannot

do as they think proper, attend irregularly and neglect the small task given to them. Of course such as these, are not children whose parents belong to the congregation.

Last year Mr. Edward Shoenberger who then resided in our neighbourhood promised, not to myself, to supply us with the means of heating our church. As he neglected to do so when stoves were needed and as we heard nothing more from him. I gave up all hopes in that quarter: more especially as he moved away from our County to the city. During the past summer I became acquainted with him and he renewed the above offers to me, and avowed his intention to give us stoves for the church. I hope you will think I did right in telling him that we would gladly receive them. Though you kindly offered to supply us, I think you will not be disposed to contend with the gentleman, nor to deprive him of an opportunity of exercising a generosity not often perhaps manifested towards churches. I have requested Mr. Read to call upon him whilst in the city, and I trust the stoves will soon be on their way, as a change of seasons and other indications of the approach of colder weather admonish us that fires will soon be needed. I have observed with the highest satisfaction, the progress of your new free church enterprise. May God grant it great success. With sincere respect to the members of the family believe me

very truly Your friend and Servant

Miss Ann. T. Da Costa. (signed) Geo. G. Field